

Postal Markings of Hawaii: 1864 – 1900

Purpose: This exhibit is intended to display the wide variety of postal markings, including cancels, town postmarks, service marks, and auxiliary marks, used on mail and stamps issued by the kingdom, the provisional government and the republic of Hawaii. Markings are illustrated through use of stamps, postal cards and envelopes/covers.

Background: Early issues of the Kingdom of Hawaii were described by many as some of the ugliest stamps in the world. After efforts led by William Erwin, then a postal clerk, new stamps honoring Hawaiian royalty were issued beginning in 1864. These issues, Hawaii's first perforated issues, were in use until the end of the monarchy when they were overprinted by a new provisional government and then supplemented by issues of the Republic of Hawaii. Stamps of the U.S. took over June 14, 1900, when Hawaii became a U.S. territory. An evolution took place in the development and use of cancellations and markings on stamps and on mail during these years.

Organization: This exhibit is organized by type of marking.

Frame 1: "Killer" or mute cancels – organized by type of cancellation.

Frames 2-5: Town postmarks – organized first by island and then by town chronologically. Only "country" town postmarks, those including town name and date, are displayed. Honolulu town postmarks are excluded for further study.

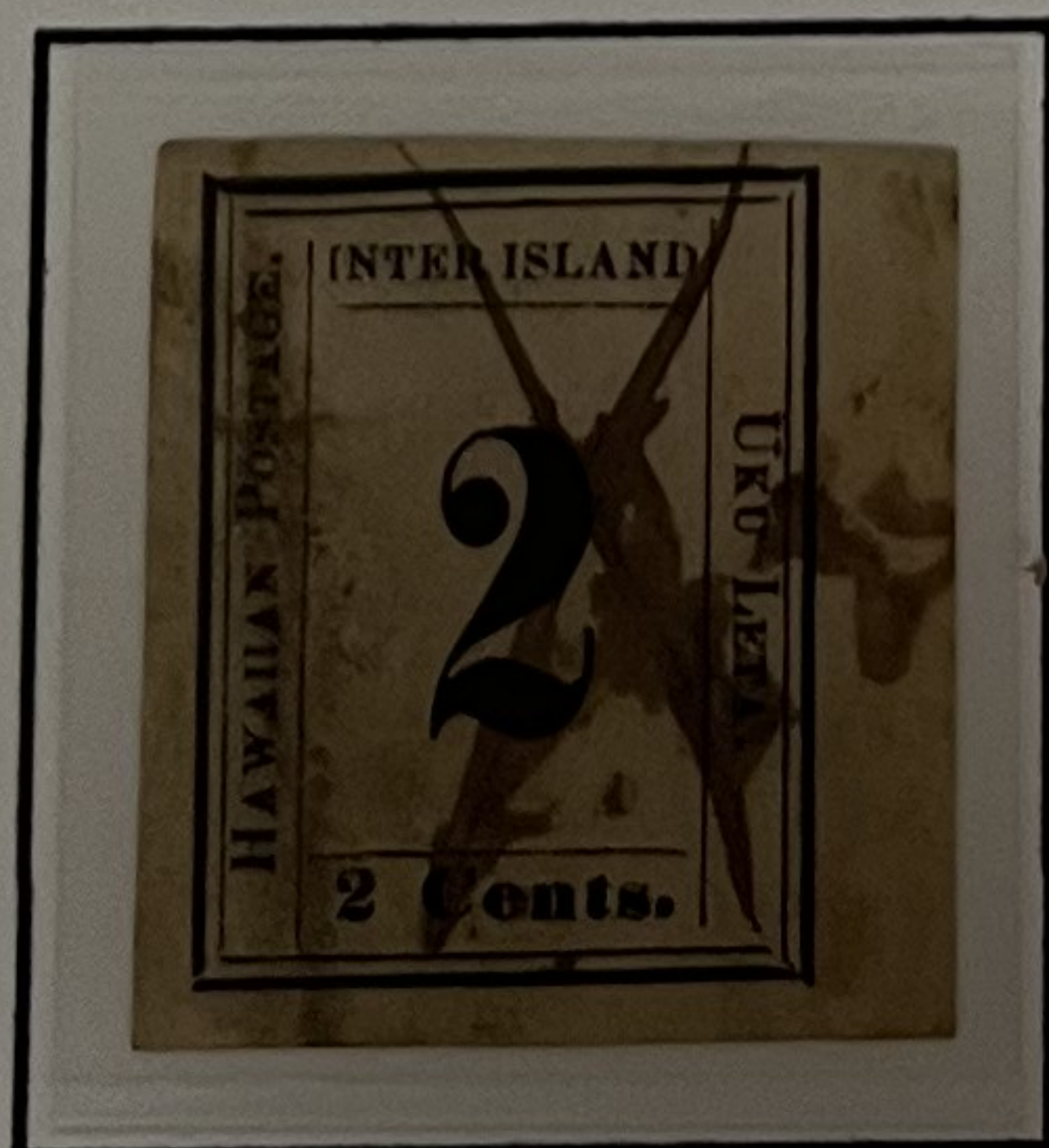
Frame 6: Postal Service markings – organized by type and purpose of mark.

Frame 7: Auxiliary markings – organized by type and purpose of mark.

Highlights: Rare and important items are **outlined in red**. Highlights, new discoveries or varieties not previously reported in literature are **also marked in red** and so indicated. Selected highlights include:

- Multiple cancels with ten or less examples reported to date.
- Multiple town postmarks with ten or less examples reported to date.
- New previously unreported 'Collection Mark'.
- Complete set of Oahu Railway and Land Co. station cancels with new quantity estimates.
- One of two reported Wilder's steamship Co. PAID strikes.

Manuscript/pen

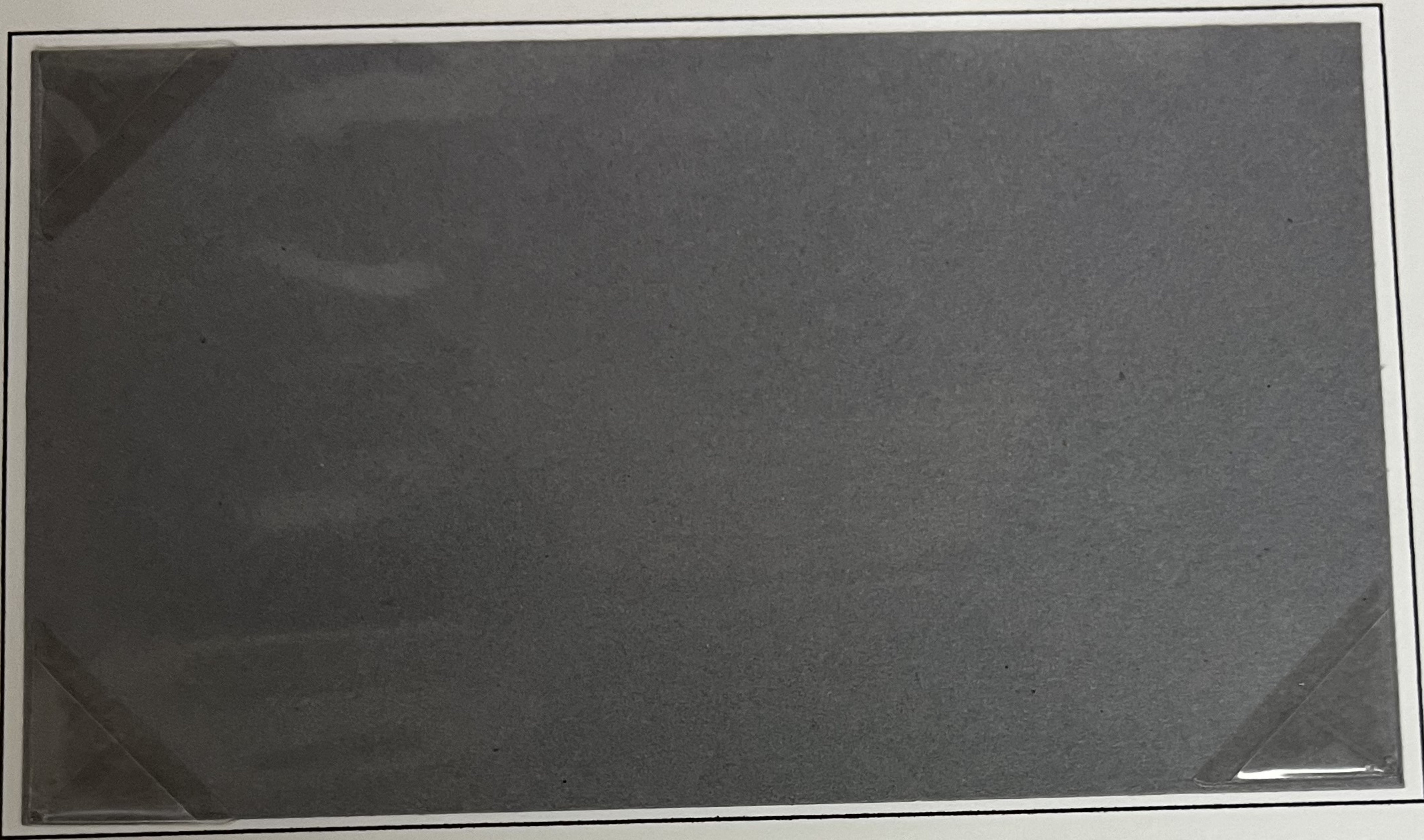


Lahaina Custom House Seal

The 'ugly' Numeral issues preceded the 1864 perforated issues. Numerals were primarily cancelled by manuscript marks, hand-made devices, or later, custom house strikes. This pattern continued on the early marks on the new stamps.

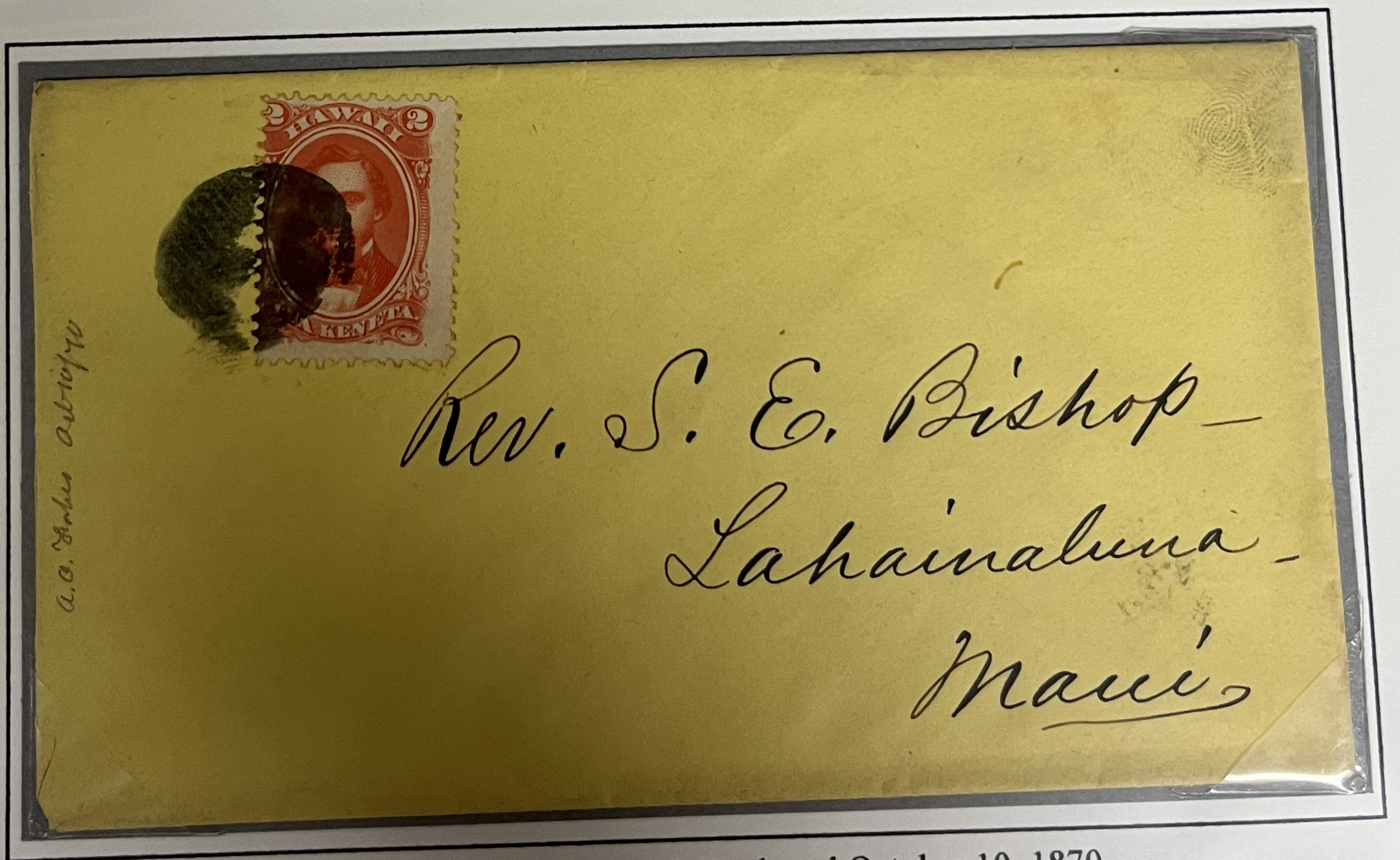
Cancels
Early Marks

Hawaii's first perforated stamps, designed to replace the "ugly" numerals, were issued June 17, 1864 and sent out for use in August. Early cancels were simple, following the earlier pattern of manuscript marks and other non-postal devices, including custom house strikes, followed by hand carved cork cancels.



November 27, 1867
manuscript
initials cancel

The initials are likely those of a relative of Postmaster P. Cummings. In 1867 the Kealakekua post office where Rev. Davis mailed this letter was located in Captain Cumming's store.



Hand-carved cork cancel. Docketed October 10, 1870

Cancels

Manuscript cancels



Two long manuscript parallel lines (22-25mm) associated with Waimea, Hawaii postmaster Rev. Lorenzo Lyons

Two short parallel lines used from Hilo, Hawaii

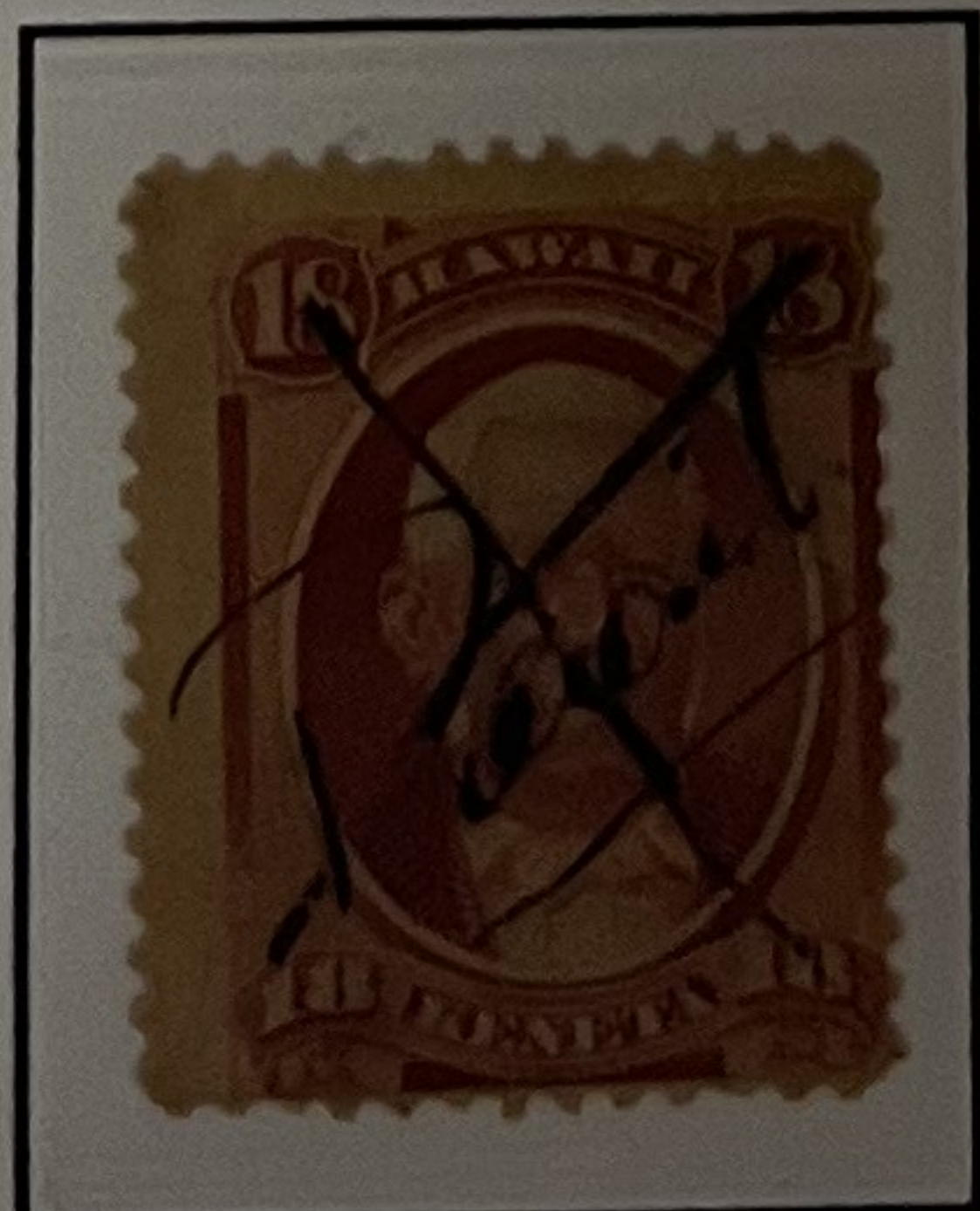


Though mostly used in early years, manuscript cancels were in use through the kingdom years and beyond.

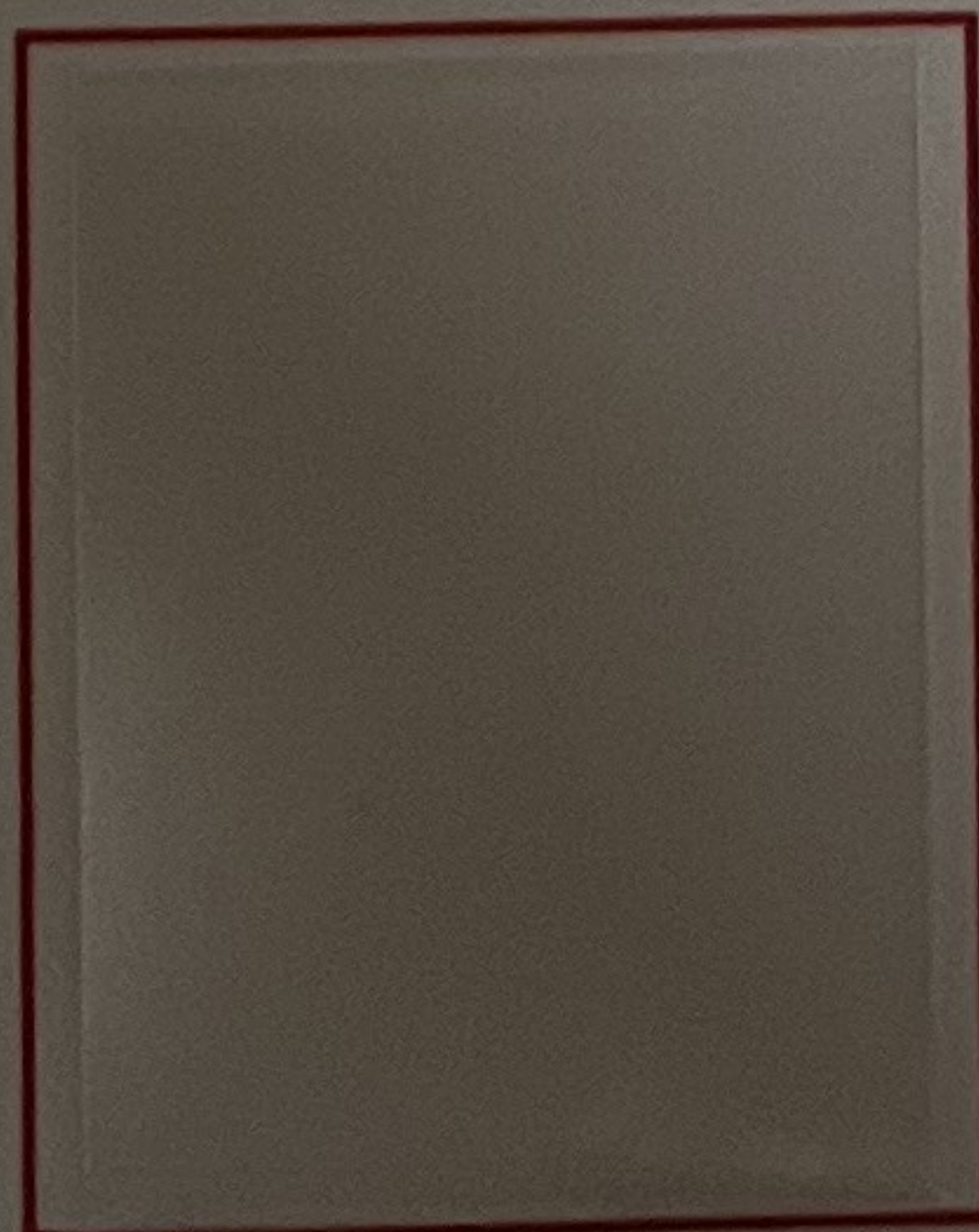
Initials



PAID



Kau PO, (Hawaii)



Less than five reported

Crosshatch known from Kealia, Kauai



Date June 1, 1894



Cancels

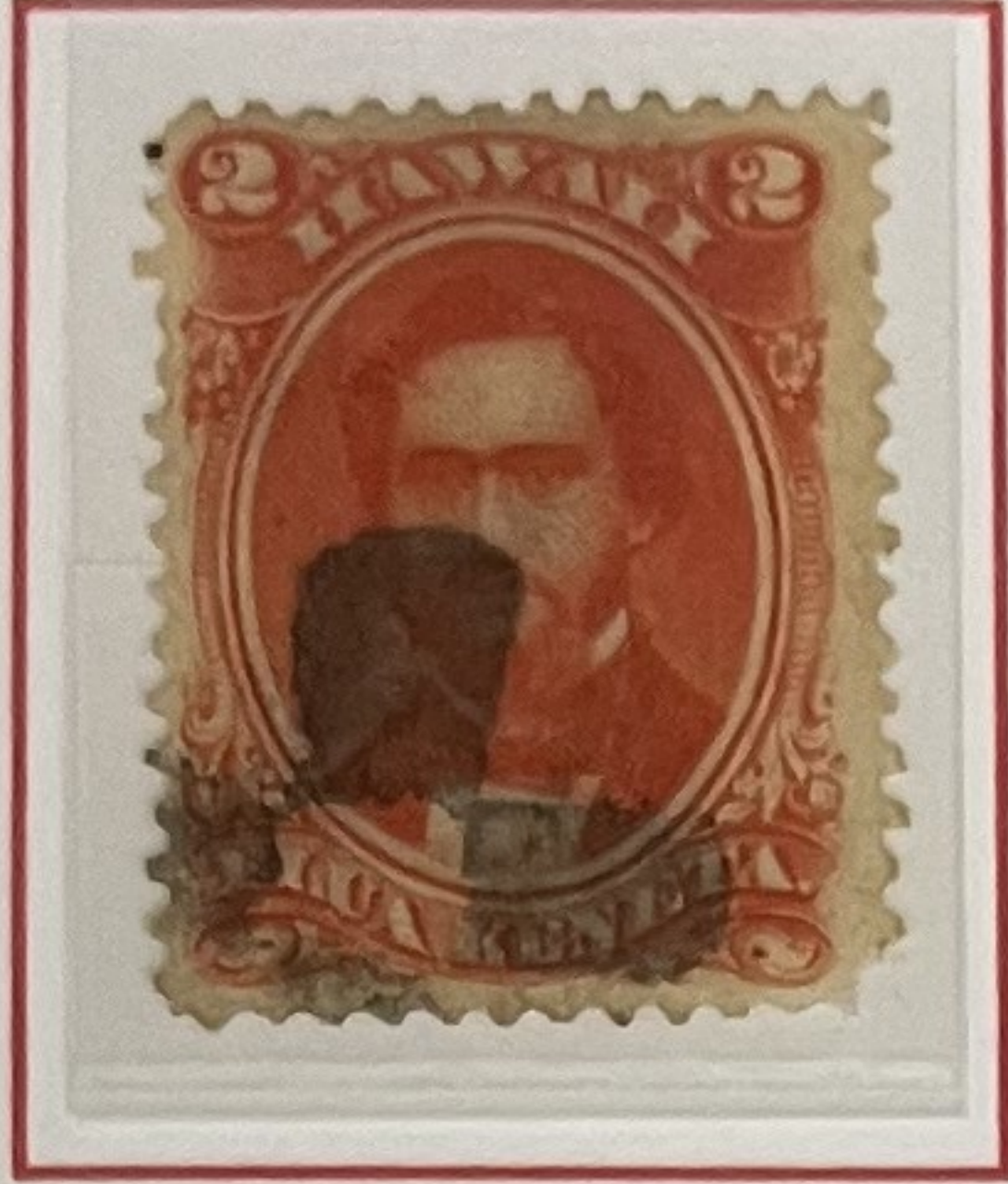
Cross cancels

Cancels best described as crosses were used. Most were simple hand-carved cork devices following the style of the earliest cancels resulting in a variety in sizes and shapes. Crosses can be described in two groups: wheel, and crossroads. No indication of the origin in most examples.

“Wheel Shapes” (crosses with a shape like wheel spokes)



24 mm 8-wedges



“Propeller” cross
one of five known to date



9-spoke wheel
one of five known to date



Ex-Davey blue 8-spoke
wheel. Unreported.



8-spoke wheel
thirty reported



17 mm “Ring of V’s”
known only from Hanalei, Kauai, 1885



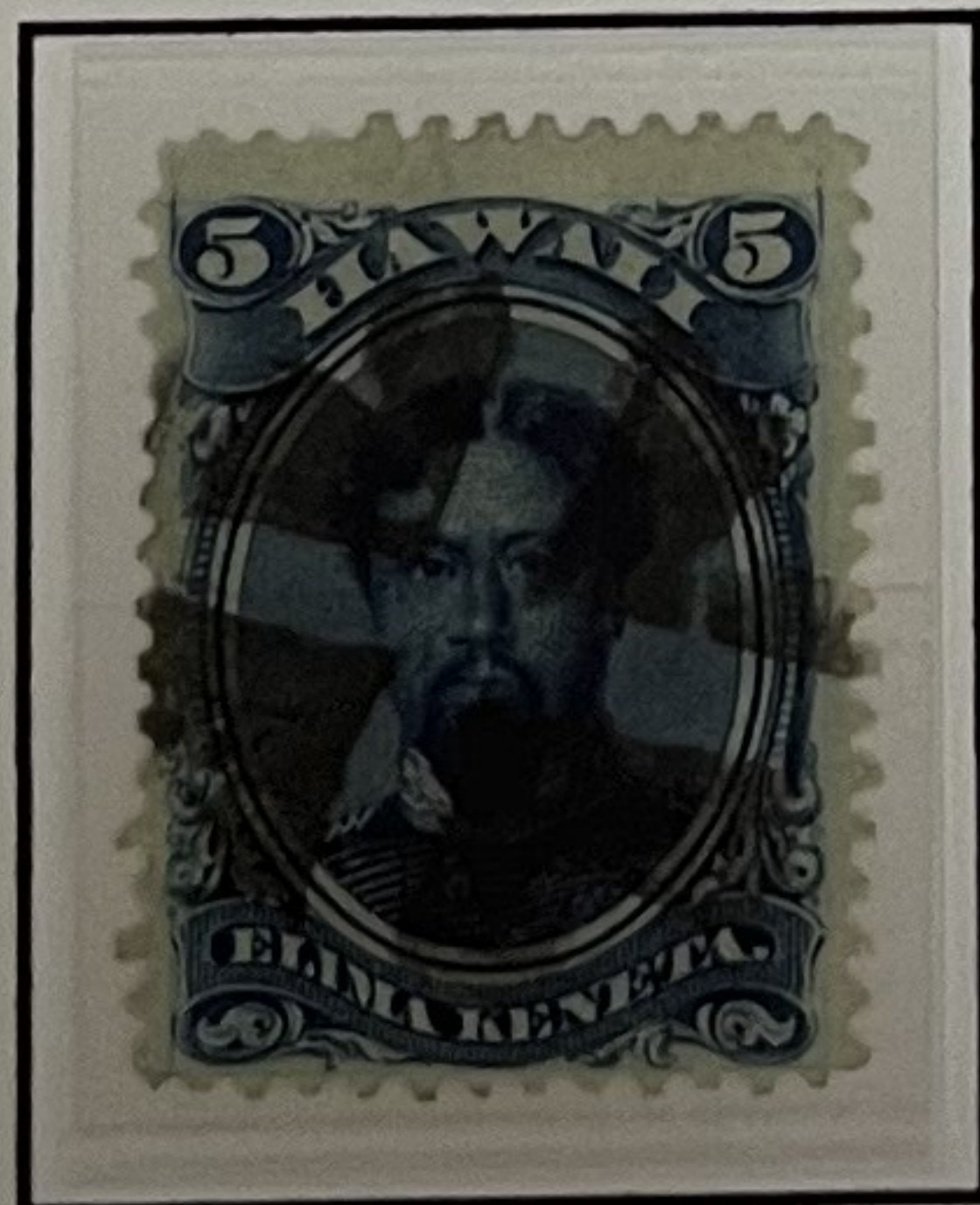
20 mm V-ring
previously unconfirmed



“Crossroads” (crosses with shapes resembling crossed roads) some applied in San Francisco, some copied from those



16 mm negative cross



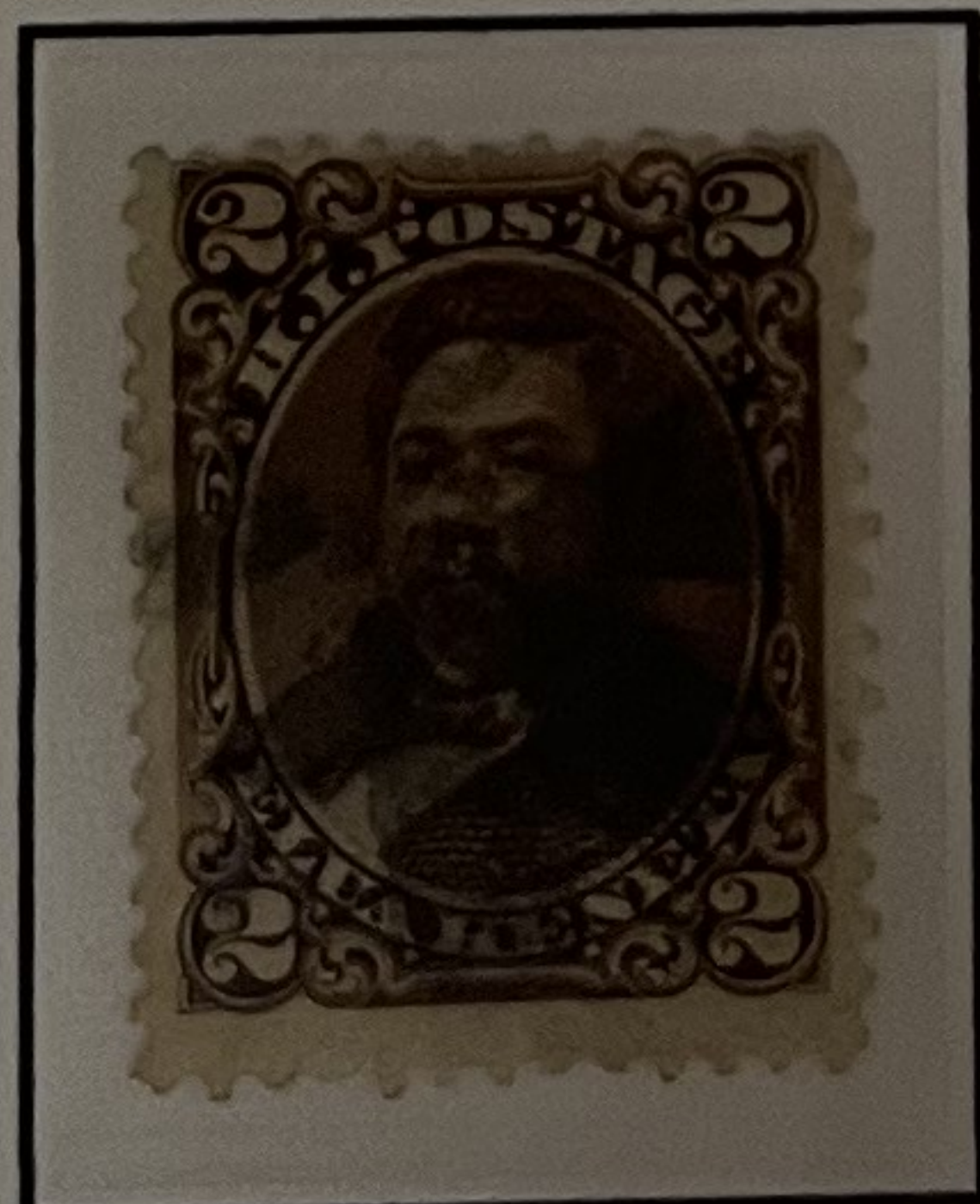
20 mm negative cross



negative cross with diamond



22 mm notched
negative cross



St. Andrews cross
less than 10 known



double crossroad



double crossroad
(originally listed as M/K)

Cancels

Letter cancels

Letters F-H

Among the mute cancels are cork carved letters. Various towns used letter cancels, often the first letter of the town's name. Discounting one private use, eleven letters or letter combinations varieties are known. No indication of the origin on the cancel in most cases.

Letter H

Letters FD

FD was applied in San Francisco as a loose letter cancel. Known from 1882.



Serifed FD in circle



Unserifed FD in circle



12 mm negative 'H' in 20 mm circle



12 mm 'H' Hilo



14 mm serifed 'H'



16 mm serifed 'H' Hilo, 1870s



'H' in 20 mm circle Hilo, 1869



'H' in 24 mm circle Hilo, 1872

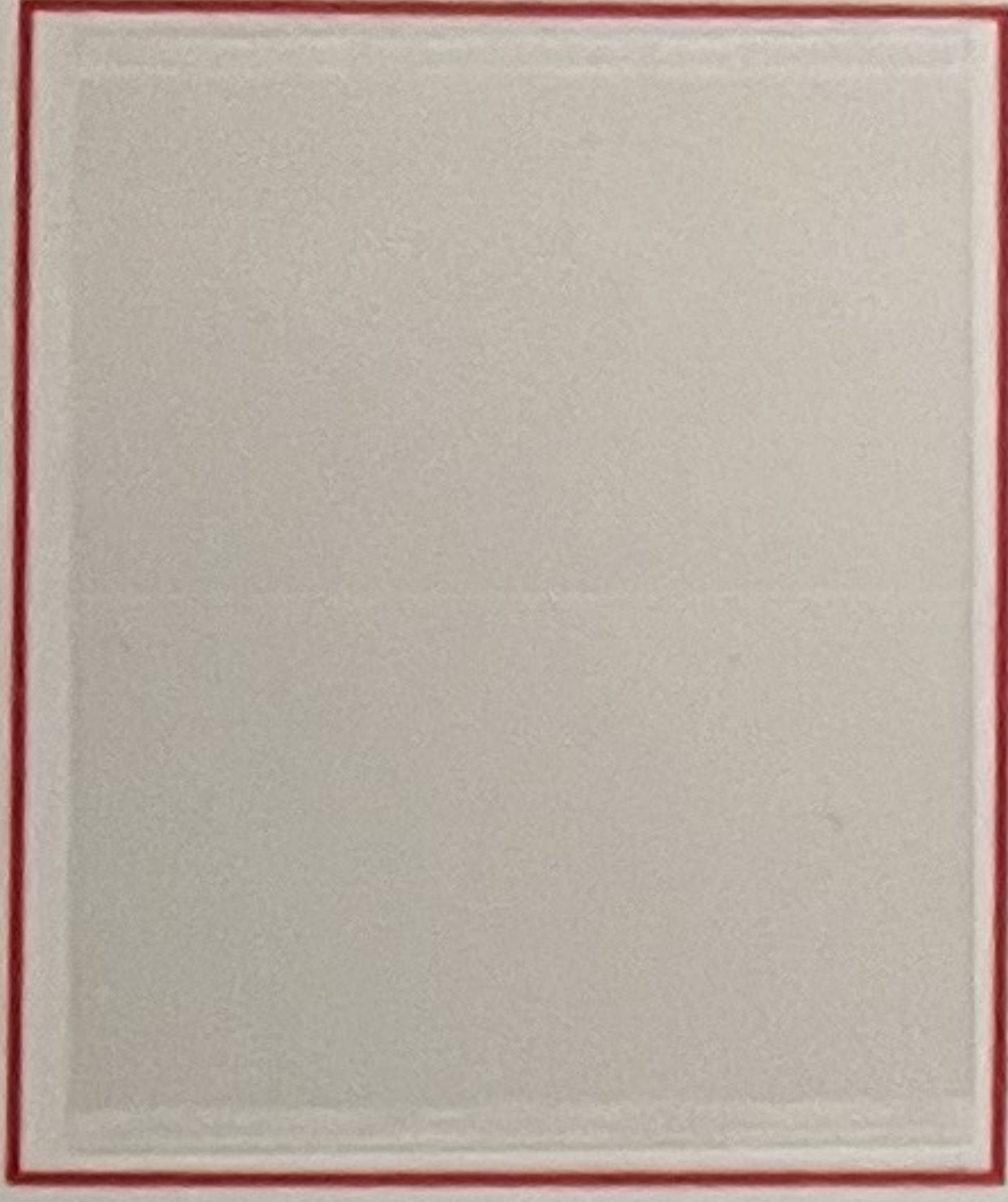


7 mm negative 'H' in 14 mm dark circle used Christmas Day

Cancels
Letters

Letters HI – HP

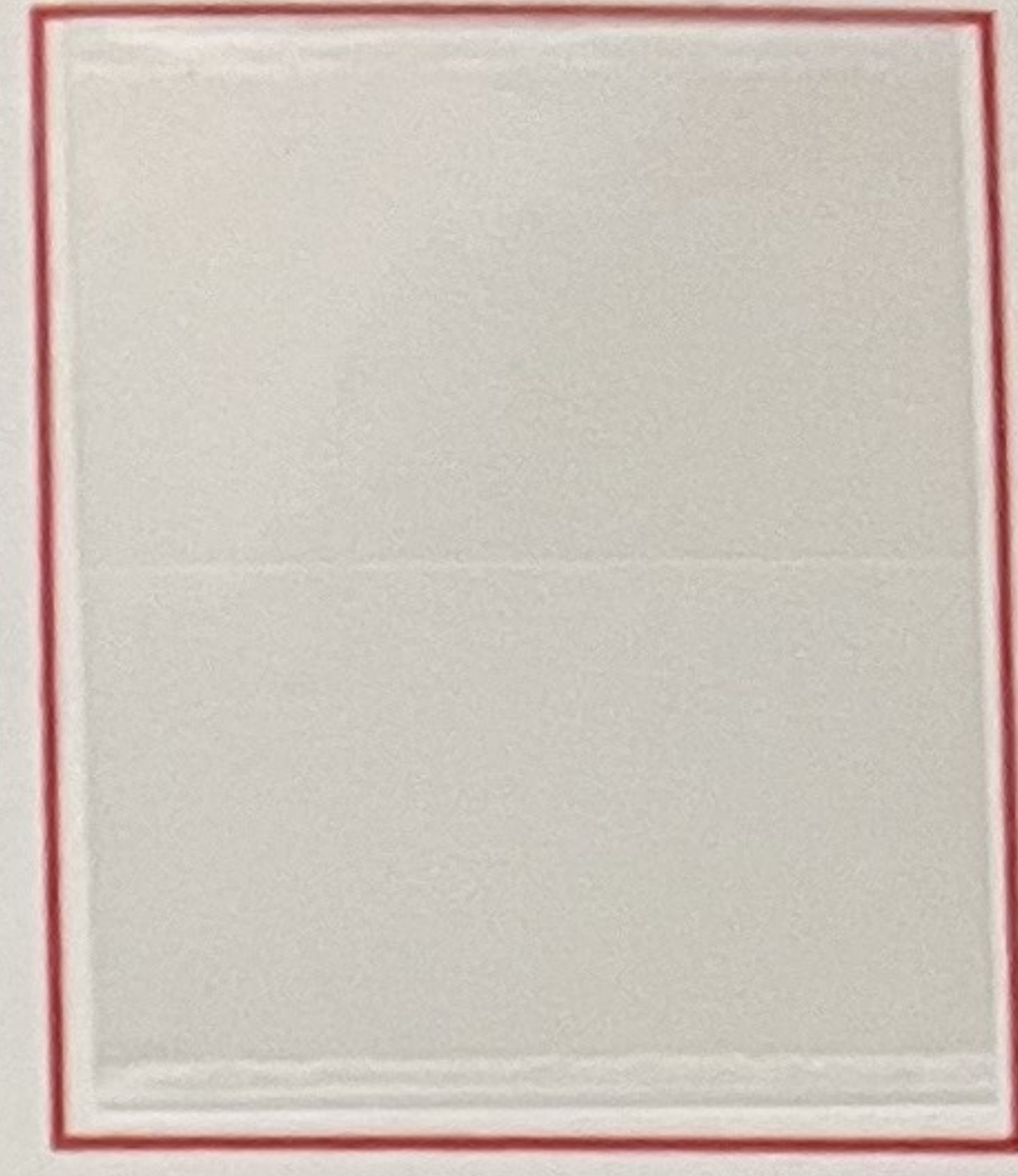
Letters HI



23 mm negative 'HI'
1872 Honolulu use
Five reported to date



18 mm negative 'HI' monogram
in 18mm circle
Less than 30 reported



Serrated negative 'HI'
Five reported to date



16 mm negative 'HI'
Honolulu

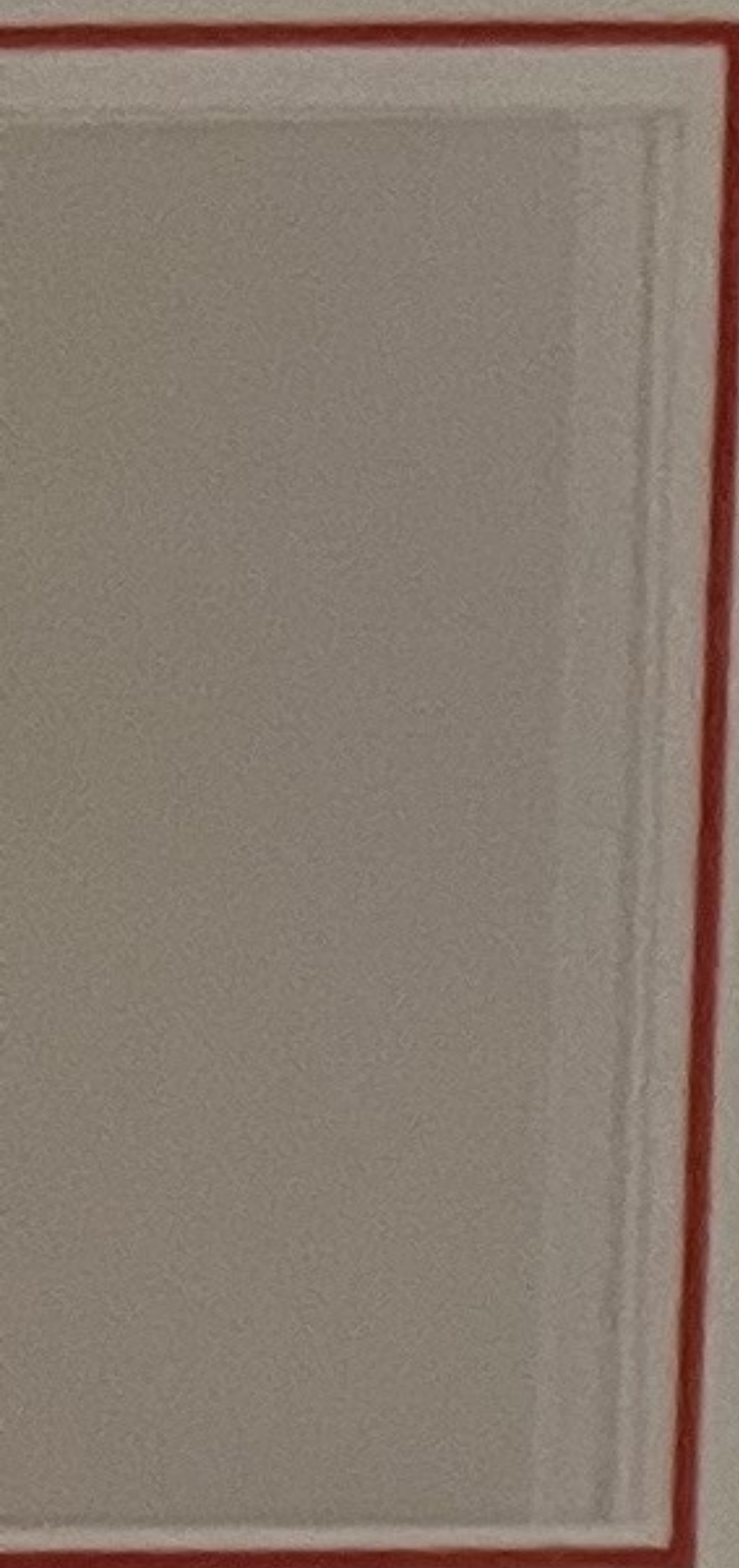
Docketed December, 1869

Letters HP



Large 'HP'
One of five reported to date

Letters K – L



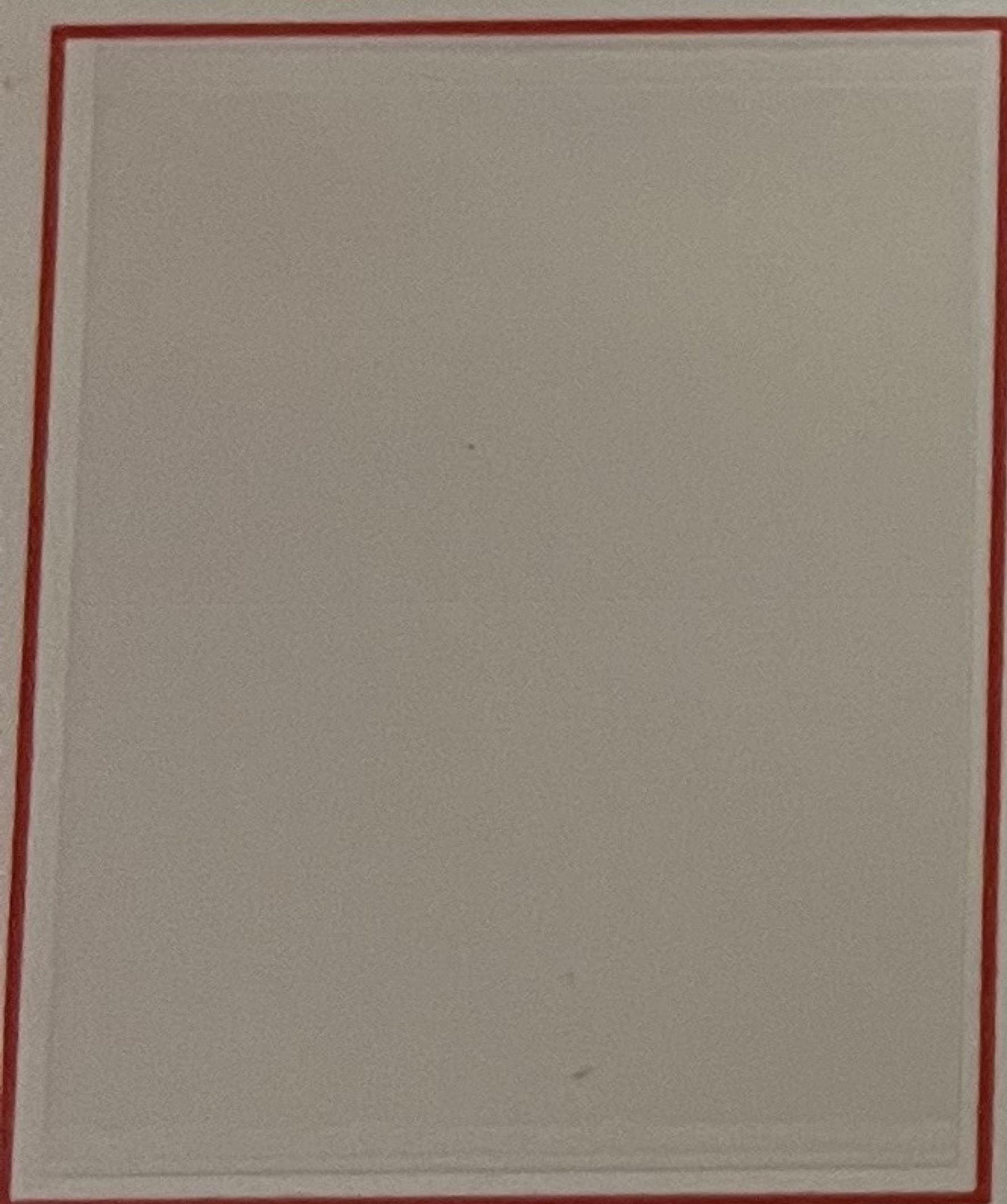
K'
reported to date



18 mm 'K'



20 mm large 'K'



Small 'K' in circle
of five reported to date



'KP' in circle
Less than 30 known
Likely from Kaupakuea, Hawaii
a village with no handstamp town postmarks

Cancels
Letters

Letters M – X

Letters M

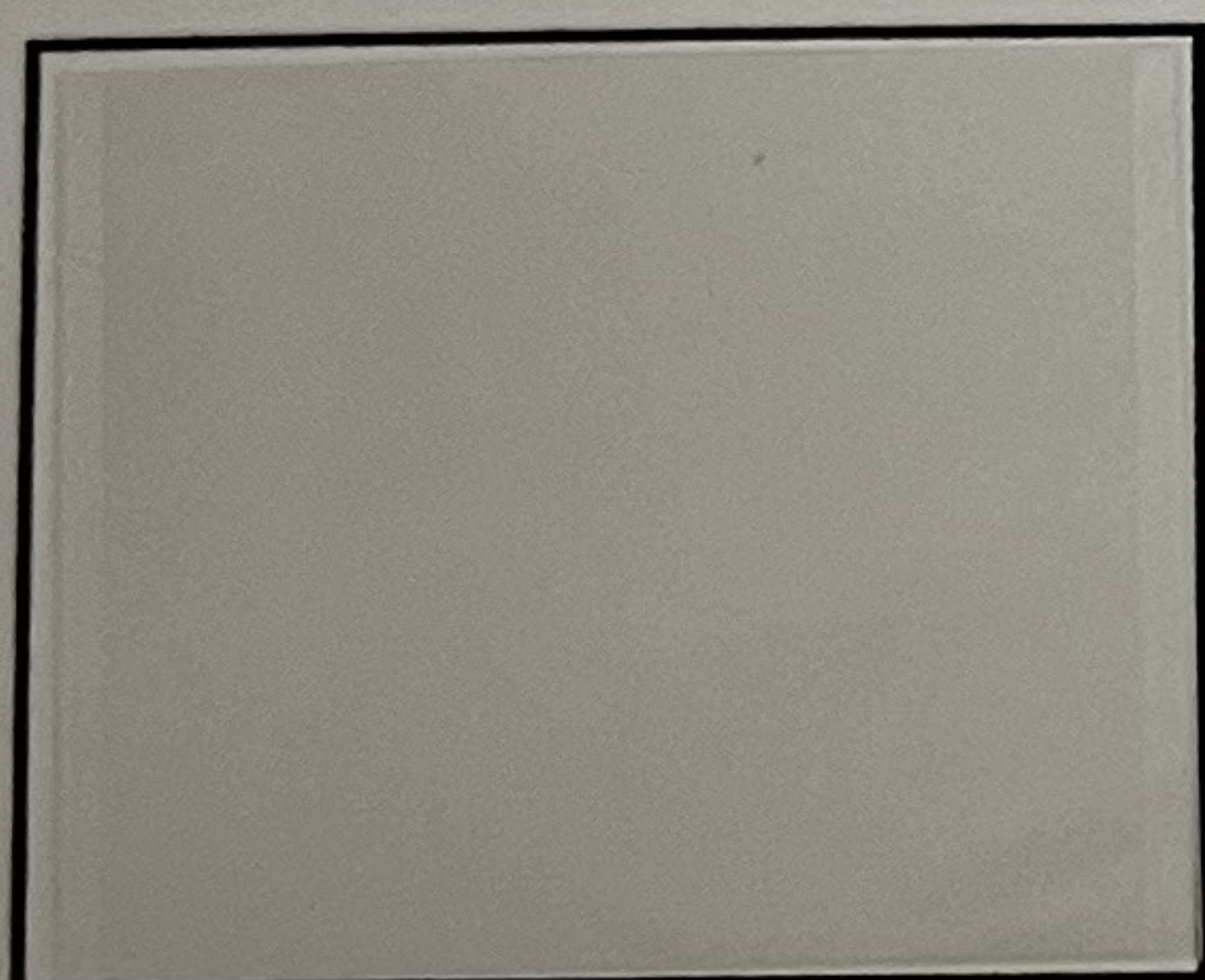


Negative 'M' in circle
Likely used from Makawao
Less than ten strikes
reported to date



Large 'McL' 15 mm
Associated with McLean Plantation
near Makawao used late 1860s

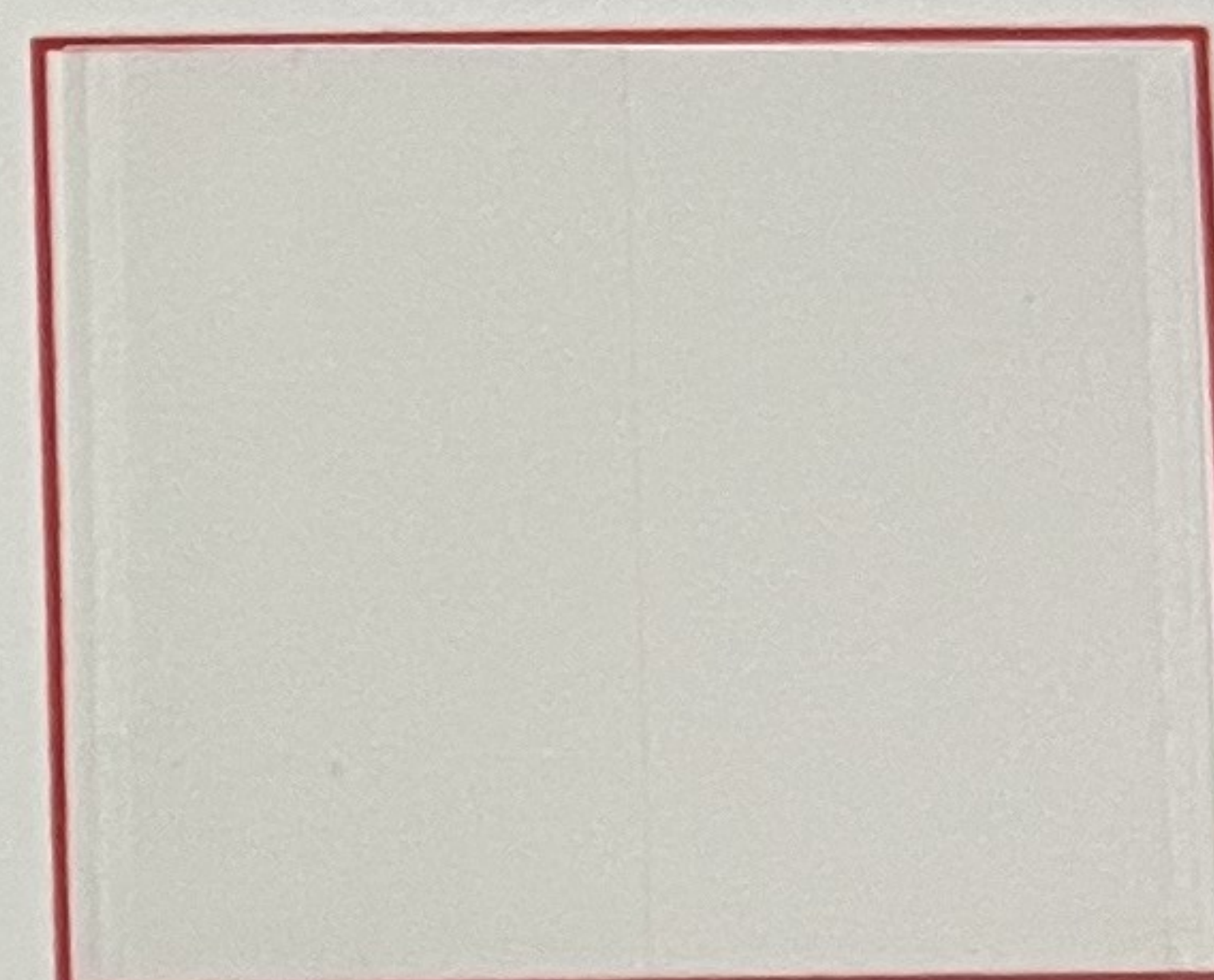
Letters P



Large crude 'PO'

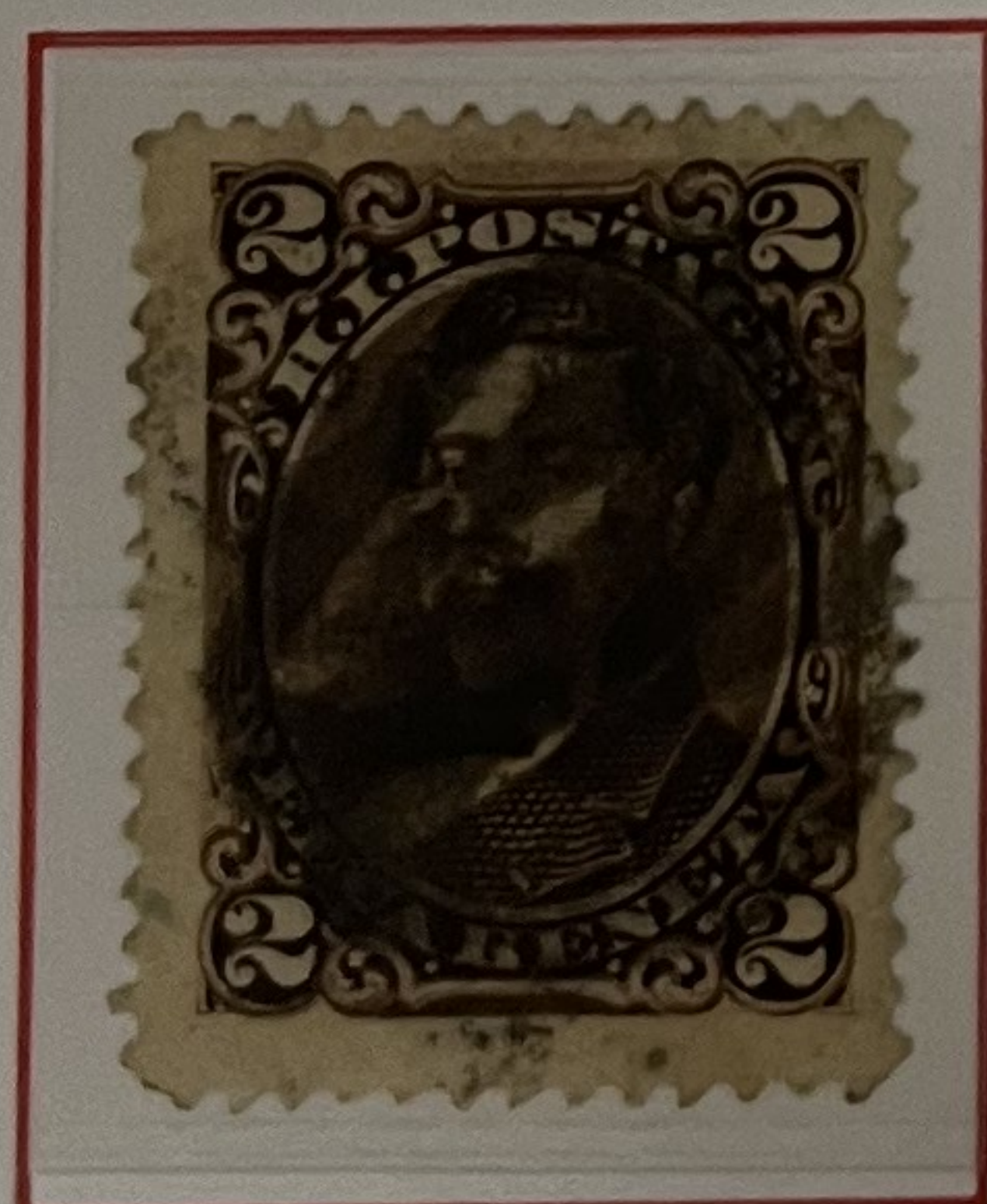


'PO' in three rings
Honolulu, 1870s

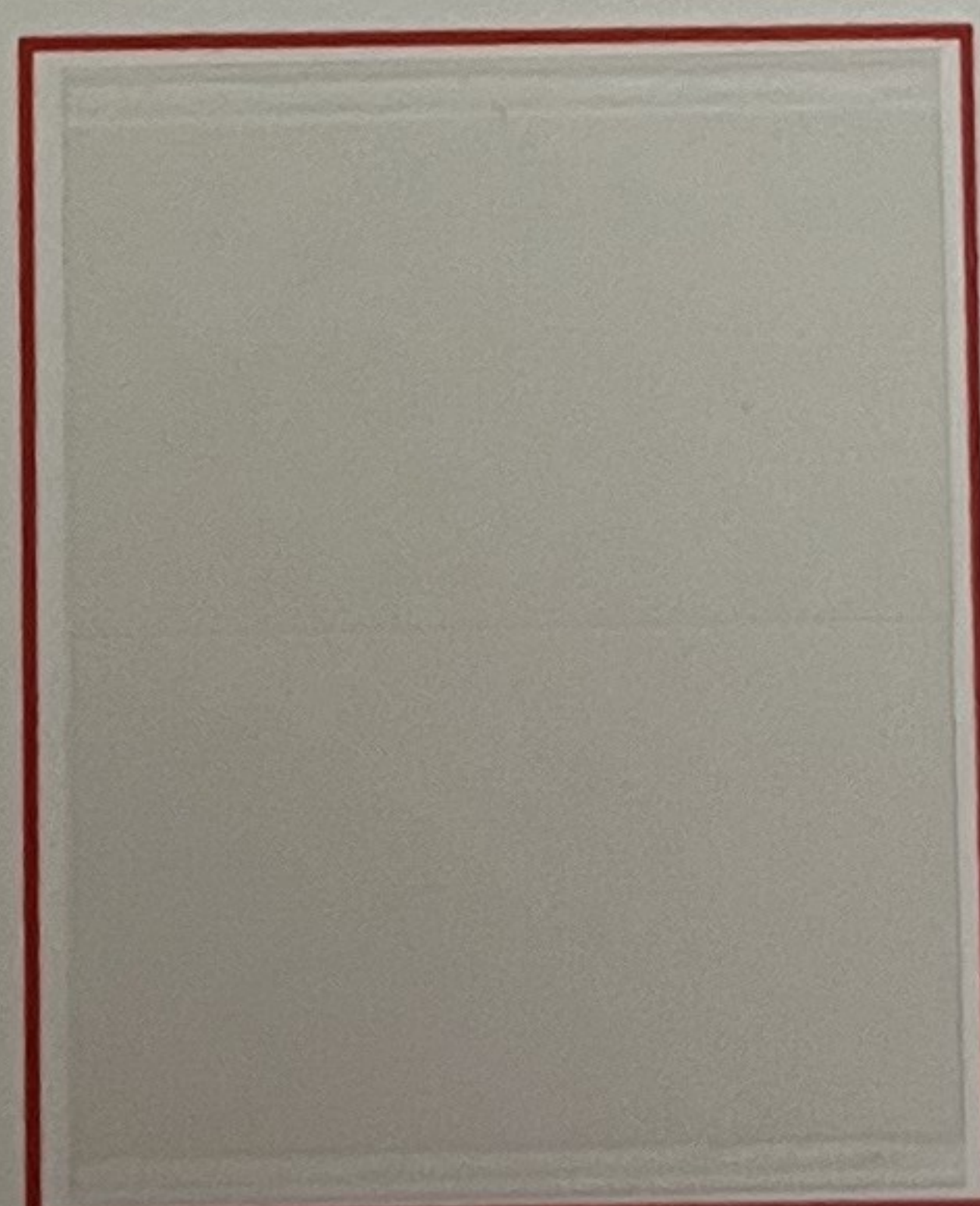


Large 'P' in circle
One of five reported to date

Letter W



Negative 'W'
One of five reported
to date

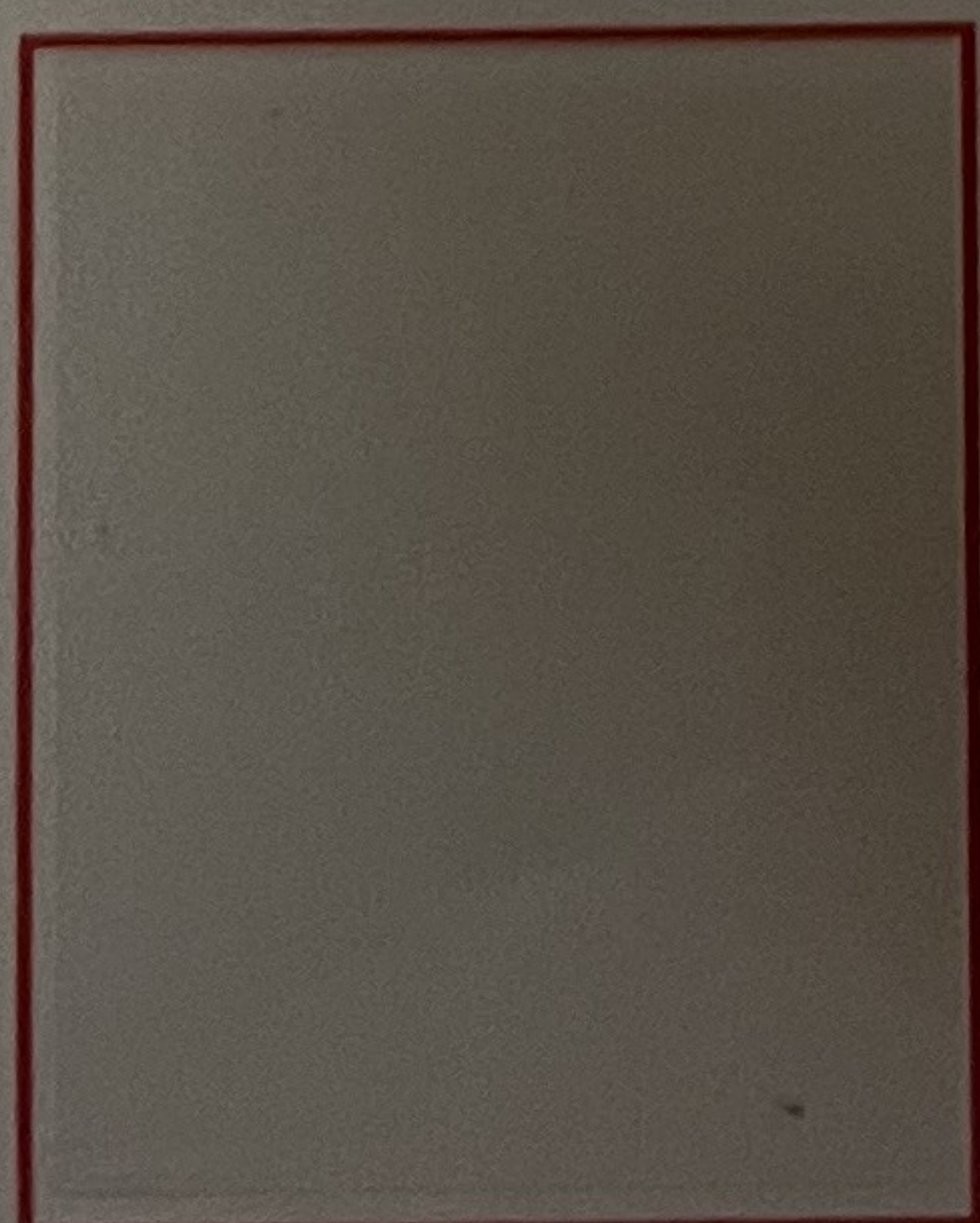


Large 'W' in circle
One of five reported
to date

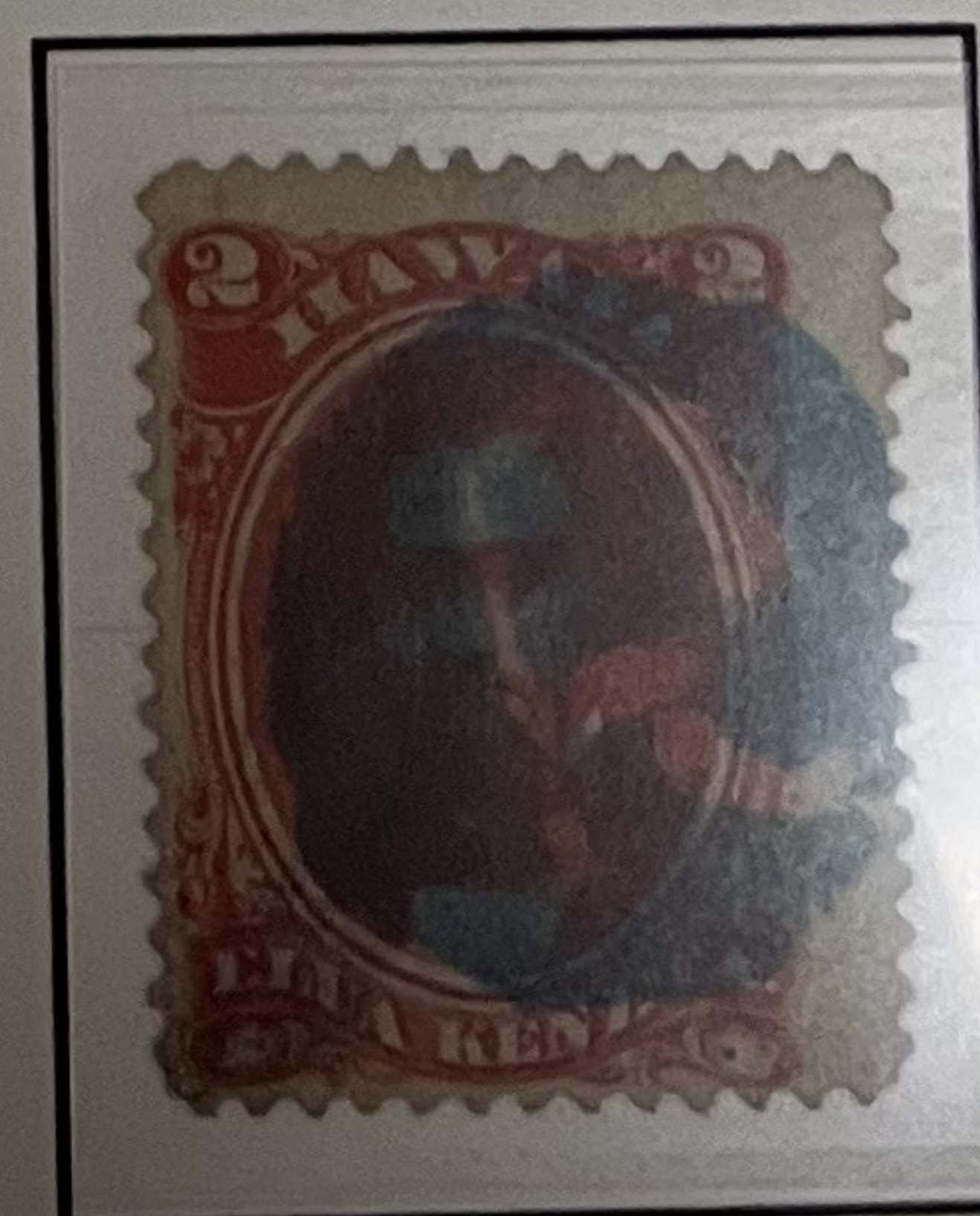


Unreported large 'W'

Others



25 mm three-ring negative 'X'
One of five reported
to date



Unreported negative 'R'

Cancels

Ring cancels

1-8
One & Two rings

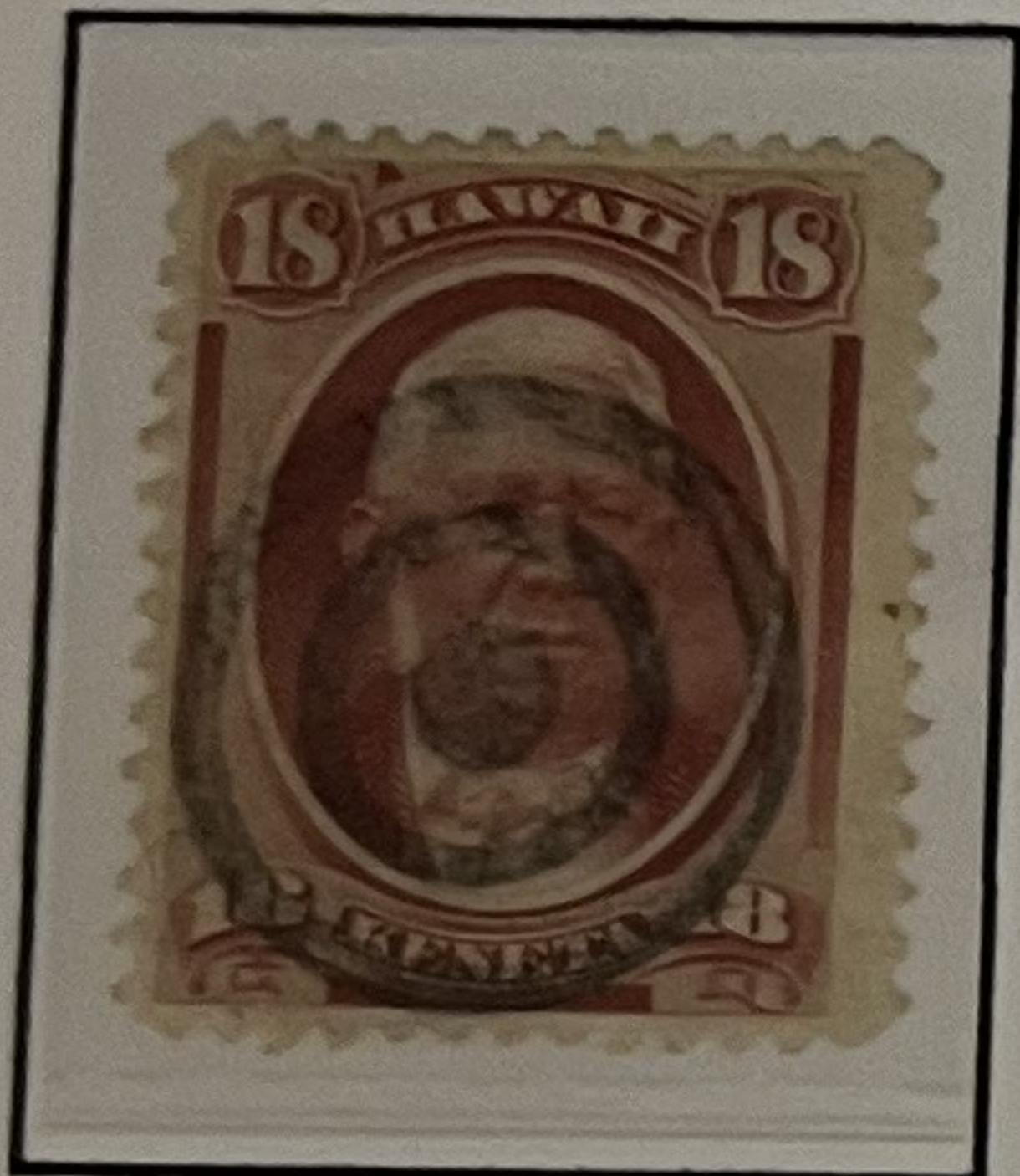
Single-ring
17 mm



This ex-Davey example
shows 14 segments



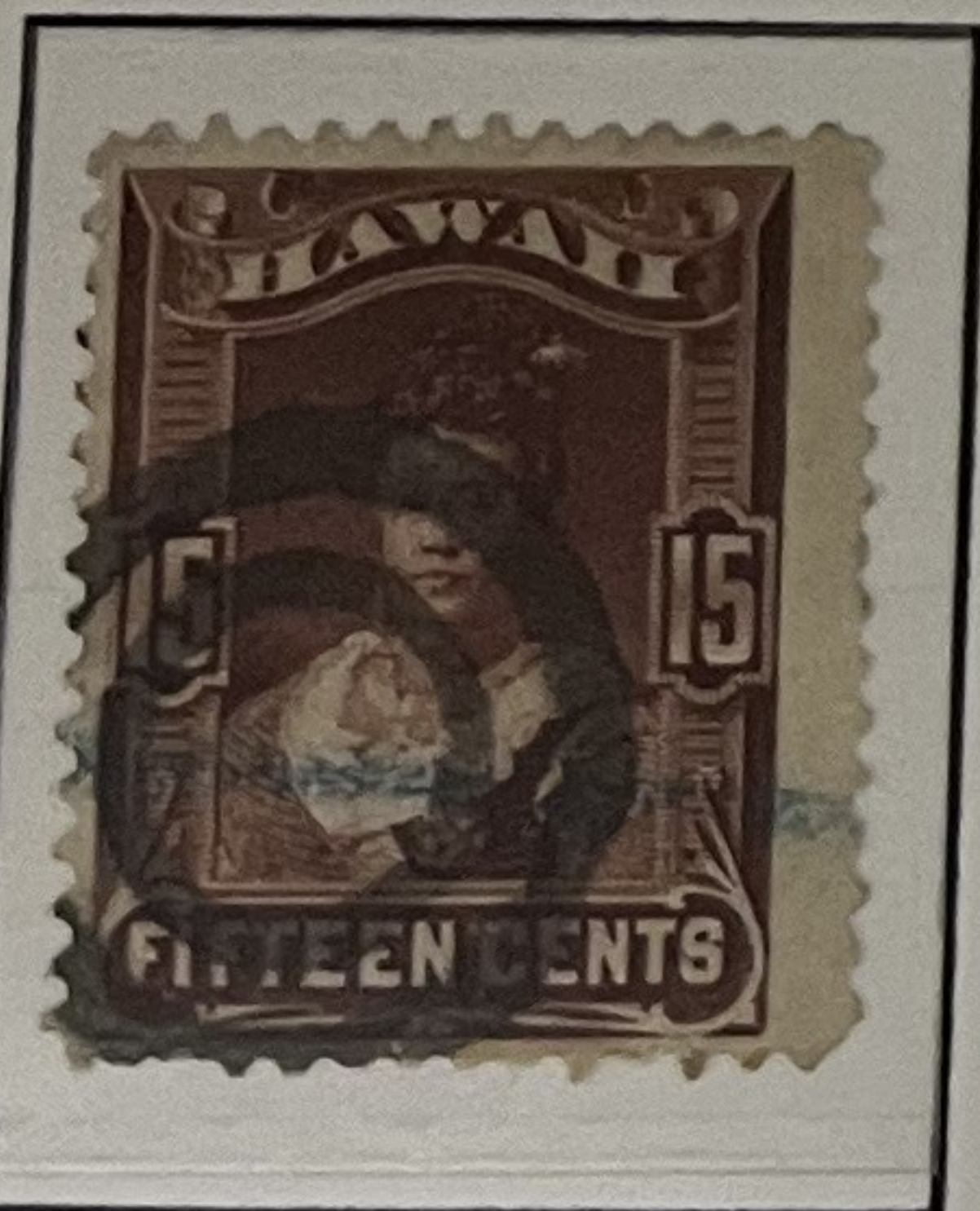
Over time these segments became more worn,
becoming less clear and making measurement
more difficult.



19 mm 2-ring cancel
with large center dot



Though this cancel is fairly common, neither Davey
nor Gregory list it in blue or magenta.



19 mm 2-rings,
even rings for
foreign mail use



19 mm 2-rings,
Honolulu



20 mm 2-rings



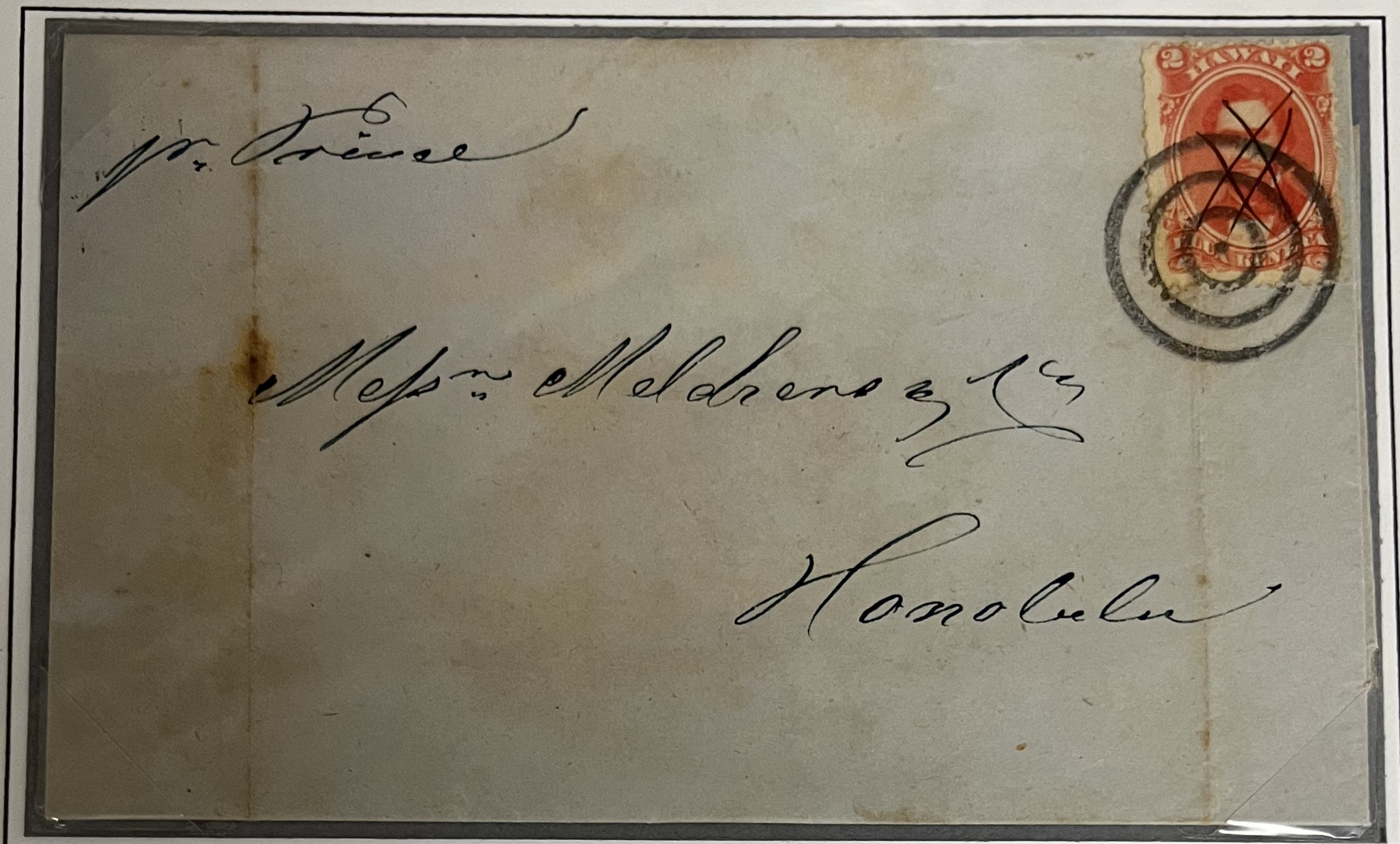
19 mm with center dot



21 mm 2-rings, 4 dots
Honolulu used 1860s

Cancels
Rings

Three rings



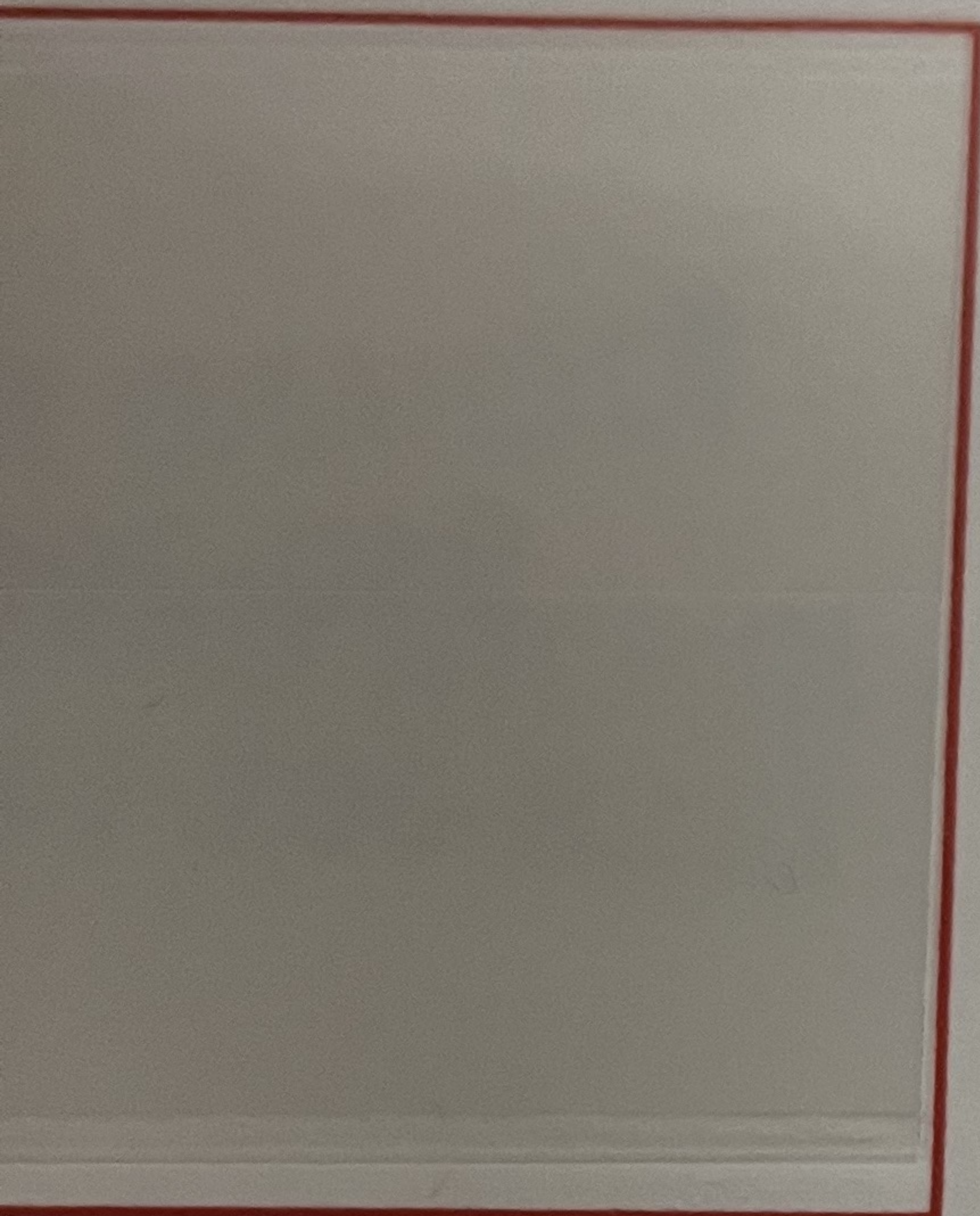
This 25 mm 3-ring with center dot is among the earliest in use. This example, combined with manuscript cancel, is docketed July 31, 1866, and sent from Waipa, a rural area in north Kauai, to Honolulu.



1876 -77 this cancel included a punch pin in each of the dots.

This 21 mm 3-ring, 3-dot cancel has been called "the clownface." Punch pins later were shortened or worn and no longer cut the stamp.

Three rings



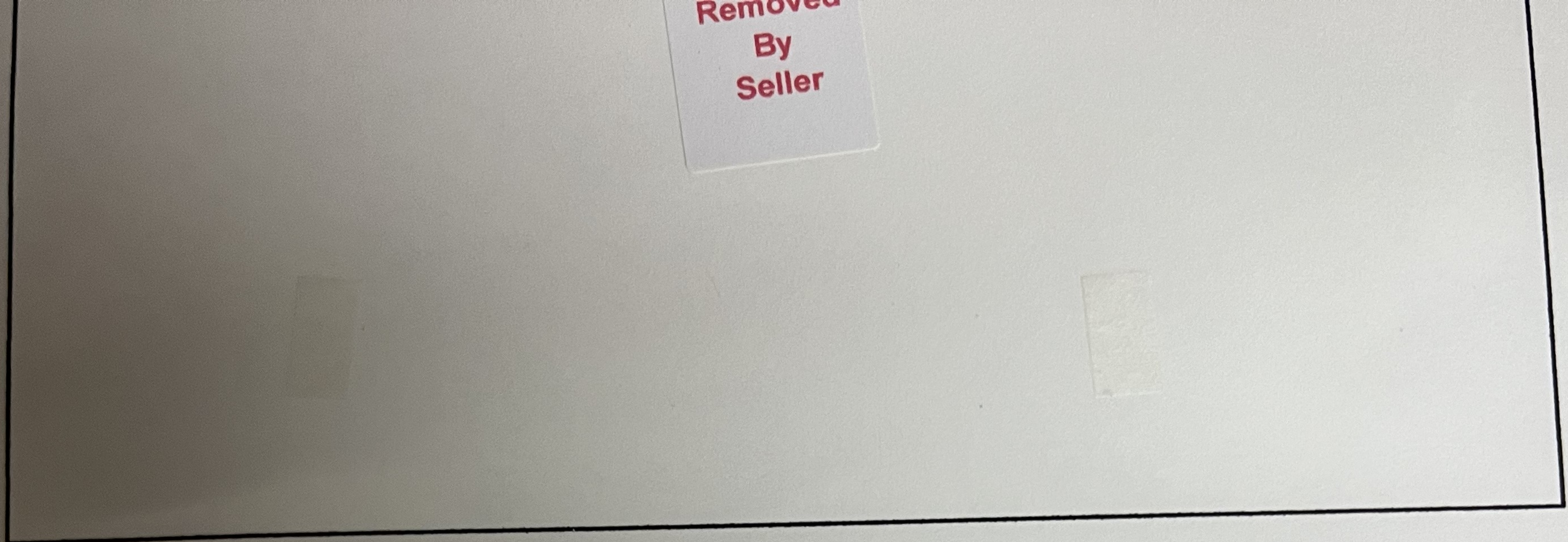
negative 'X'
reported to date

21 mm 3-ring used
in 1870s. Less than
30 reported to date

17 mm hand-cut
device from 1888

Removed
By
Seller

Removed
By
Seller



23 mm 3- ring "fancy cancel" often called a "pie" cancel

[Addressee W.O. Smith was an original planner of the overthrow of the monarchy and later the Attorney General for the Provisional Government.]



16 mm 3-ring 'pie'
Honolulu 1880s



black



blue

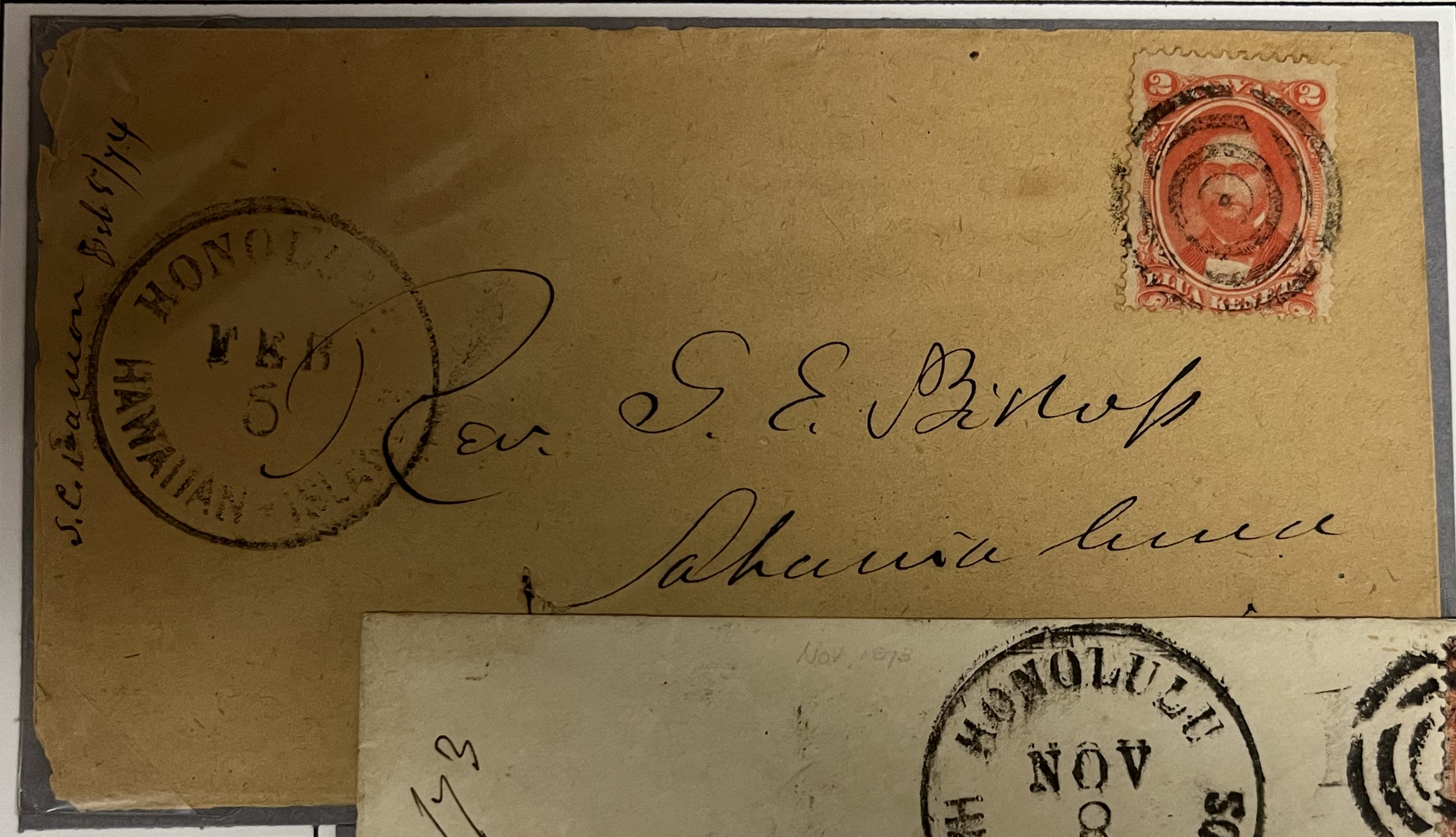


purple



red

15 mm 3-ring cancel used in 1880s by several towns in a variety of colors



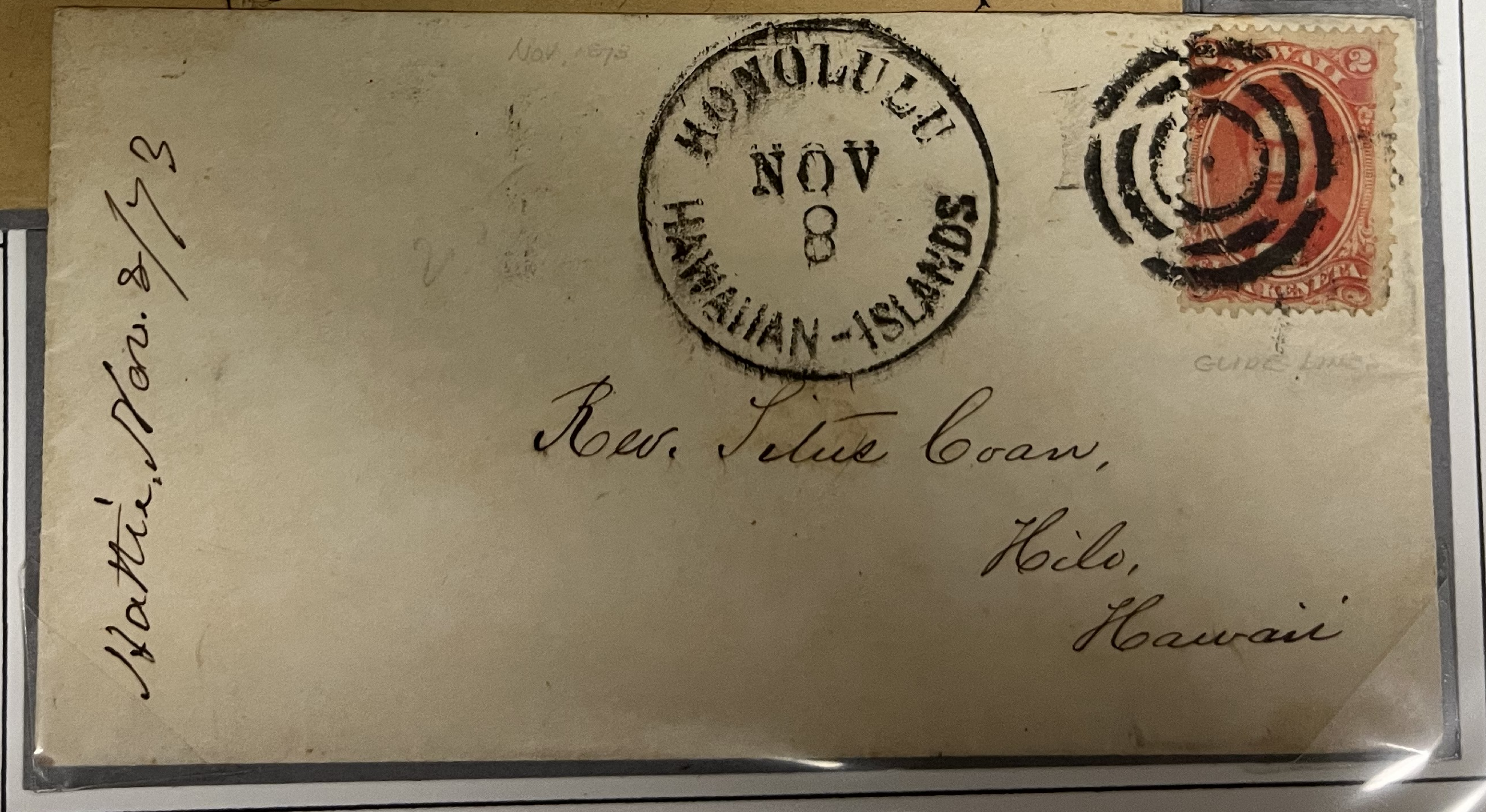
S.C. Mason Feb 5/74

HONOLULU
FEB 5
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Rev. S. E. Bishop
Ahaiwa luncu



24 mm 4-rings
with center pin.
Early examples
showing
punch.
Feb. 5, 1874



Watt's, Nov. 8/73

Nov. 1873

HONOLULU
NOV 8
HAWAIIAN ISLANDS

Rev. Titus Coan,
Kilo,
Hawaii



GUIDE LINE

The fourth ring
frequently did
not print.

Nov. 8, 1873

Cancels
Bars

Square grids



18 mm 2x3 square grid
foreign mail use



17 mm 9-bar square grid
Honolulu use



20 mm 7-bar square grid
Lahaina use



Early Honolulu
17mm square grid,
December, 1865

Hilo, Hawaii
17 mm square grid

Blue examples are
rarely seen.



Cancels

Bars

Circular Grids

The "bars" of these circular grids are essentially bars of small squares.



4-bar grid from Koloa, Kauai
Known from 1888. *Less than 30 reported to date.*

Most of the circular grid cancels are actually 'loose letter' cancels – cancels for previously uncanceled letters from ships or from San Francisco.



3 x 3 circular grid



4 x 4 circular grid



7 x 7 circular grid

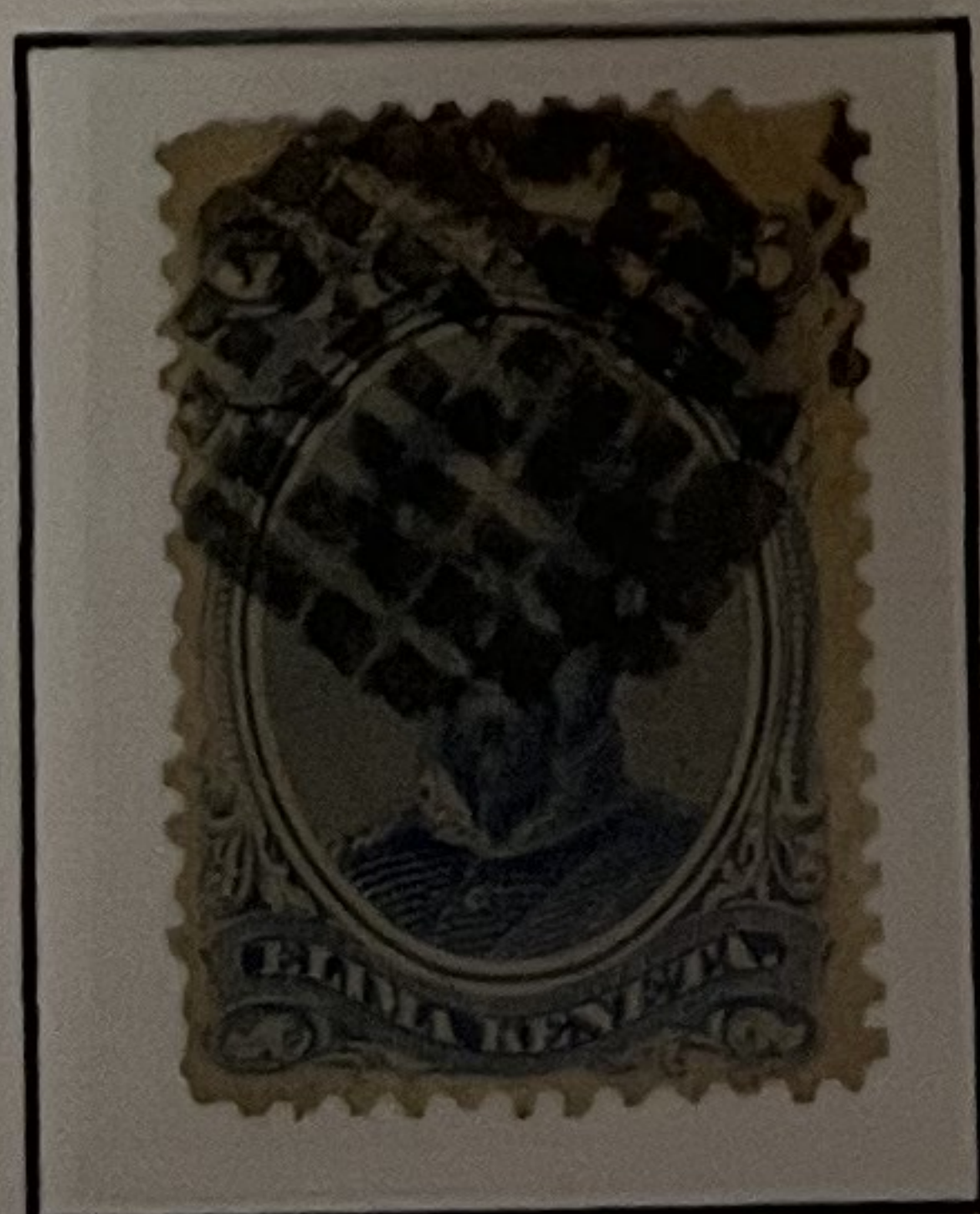


9 x 9 circular grid

Each of these balanced circular grids have *less than thirty examples* reported to date.



8 x 10 circular grid



8 x 7 circular grid



7 x 6 circular grid

Cancels
Bars

Circular Grids

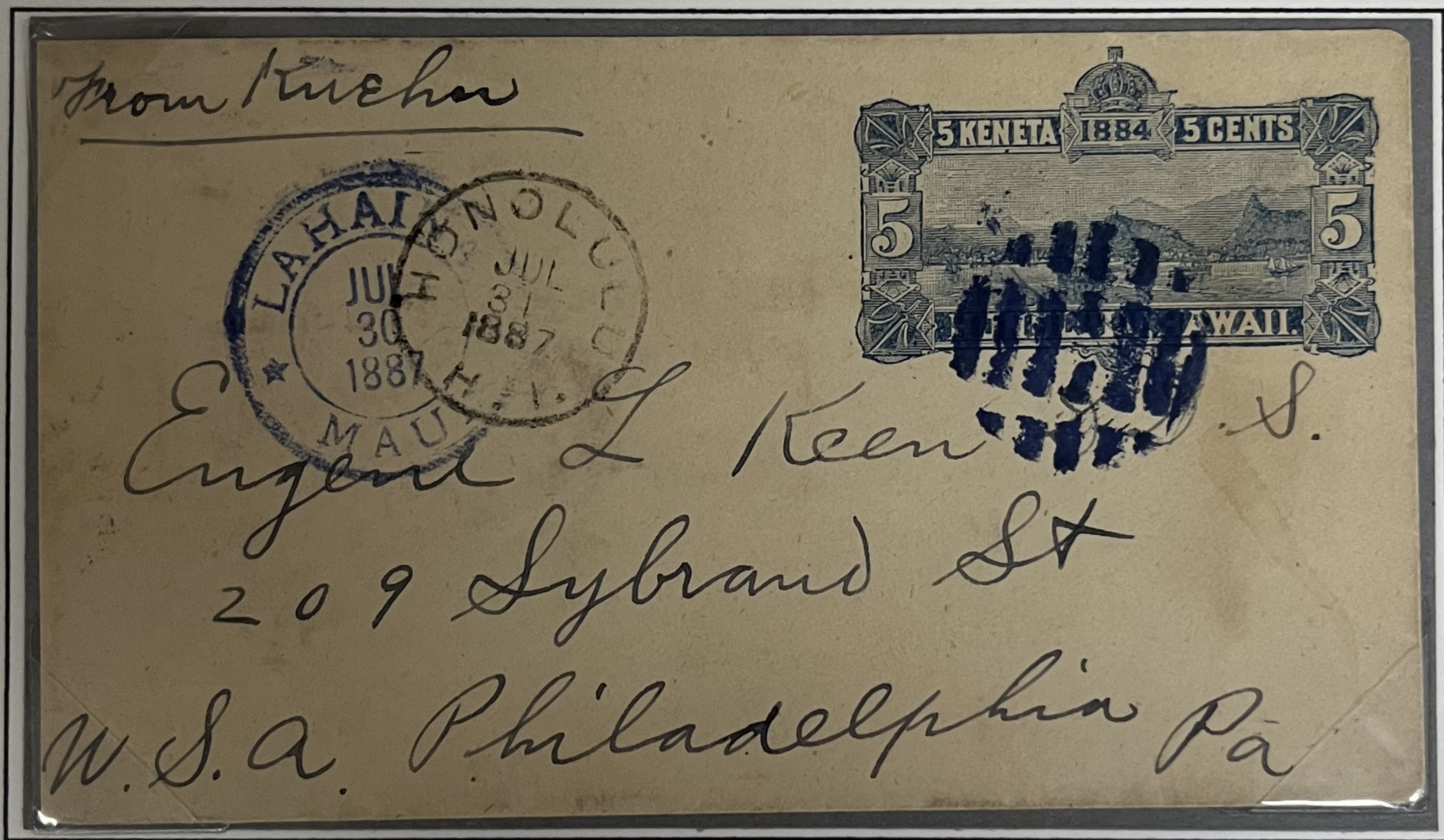


Blue

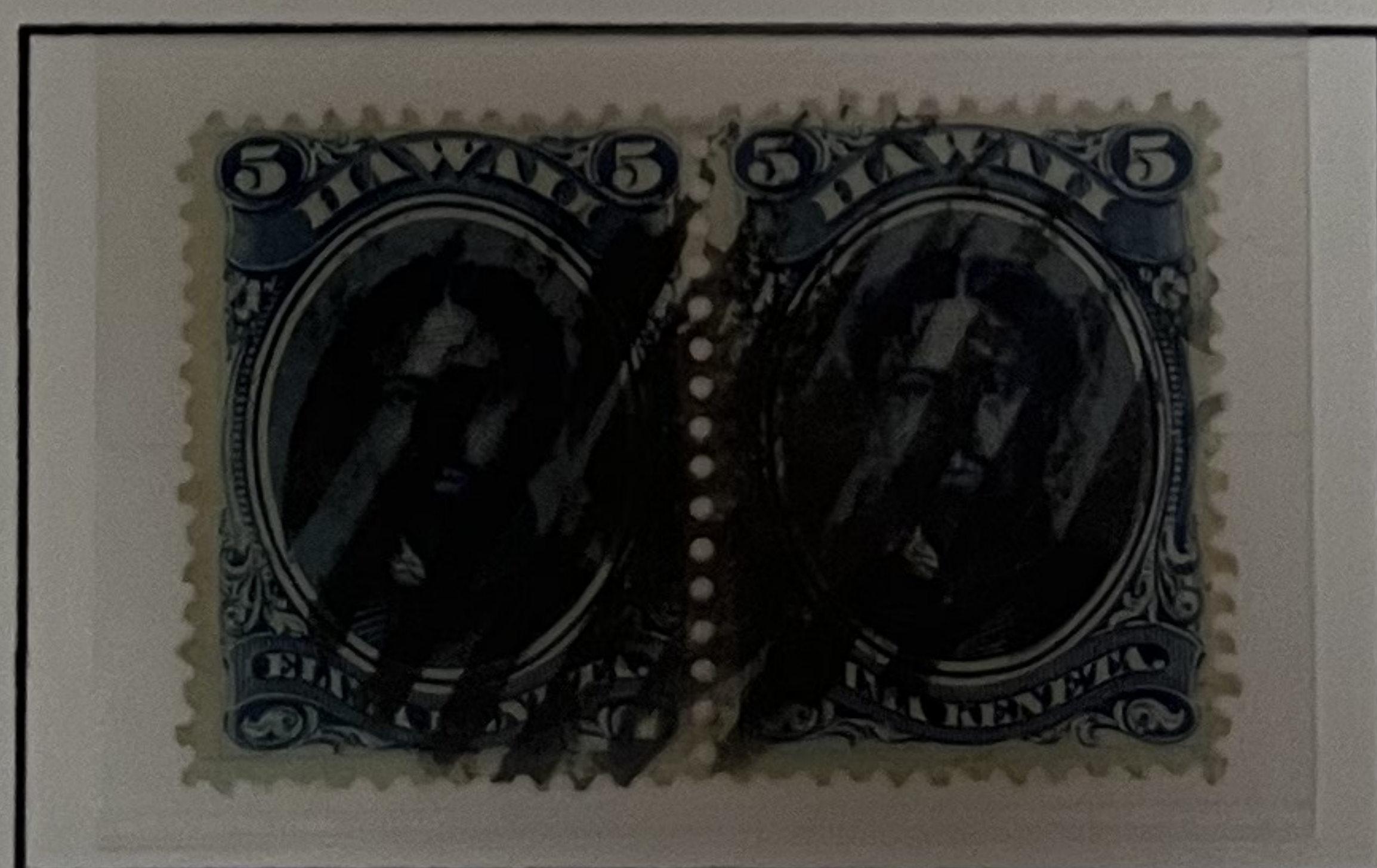
Black

25 mm three-part 7-bar circular grid with hollow and center pin.

Less than 30 reported to date



25 mm 7-bar three-part grid with narrow gap at center



25 mm grid of dashes

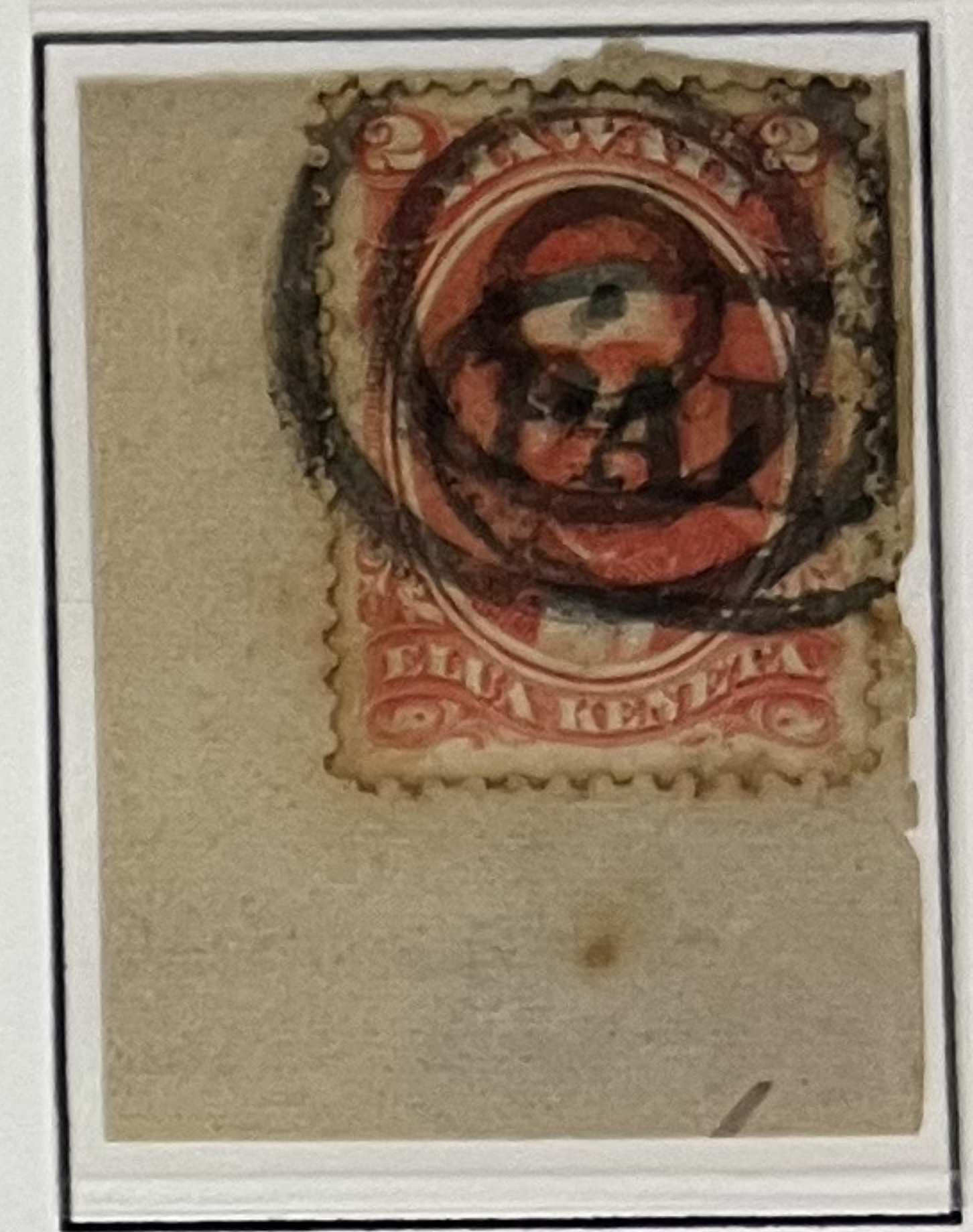
25 mm 7-bar grid

25 mm 7-bar grid with center dot. Unreported.

Cancels

Miscellaneous/uncategorized

While some Hawaiian cancels are easily grouped, such as bars, letters, and rings, some others do not fit the groups. These stand alone.



Blue 'PAID' in oval

Thurston Twigg-Smith studied this correspondence. He determined that the blue 'PAID' in oval cancel originated in Lahaina, Maui.

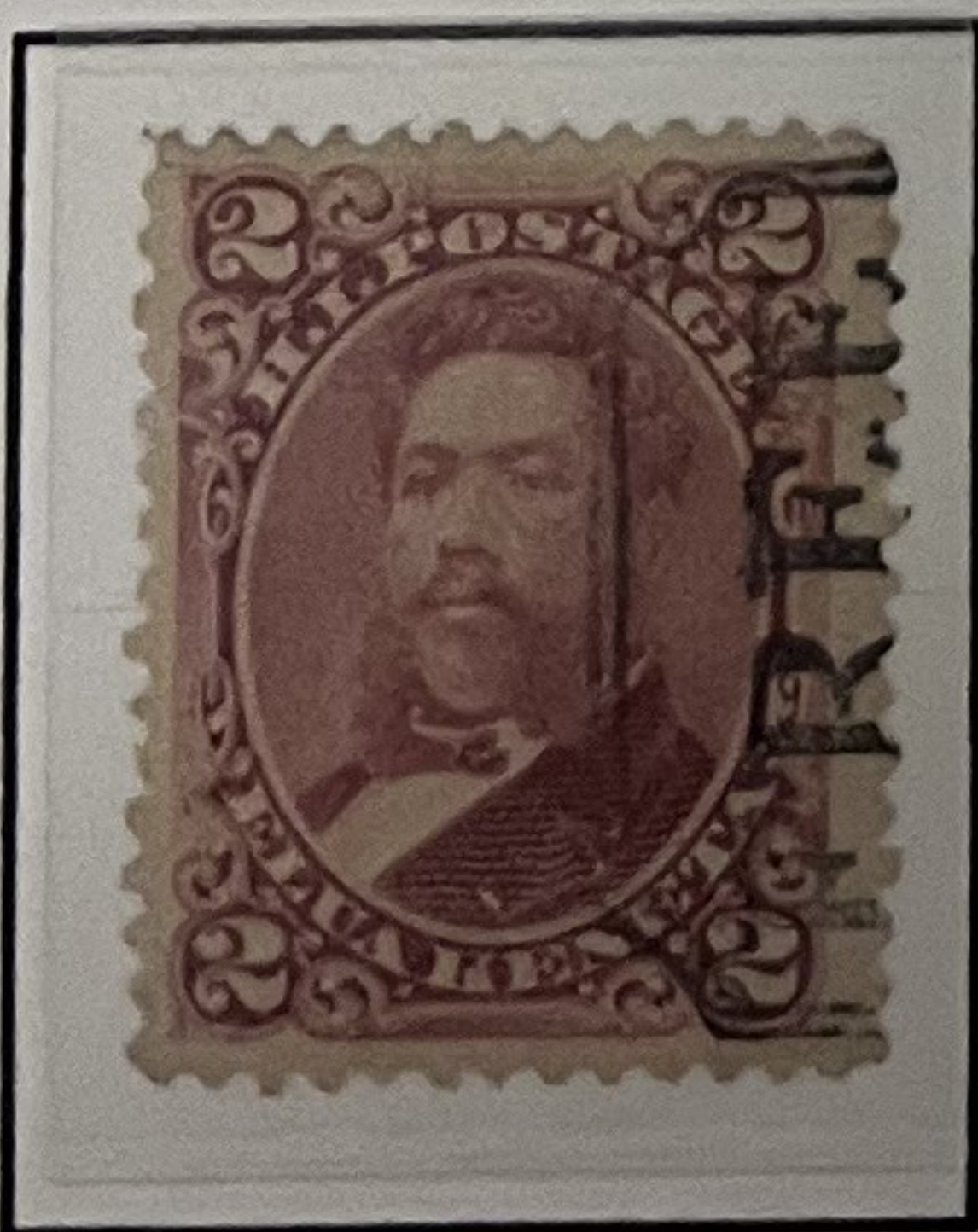


The negative star in a circle was used from Koloa, Kauai.



Star in Cogwheel from San Francisco
Less than 10 reported to date

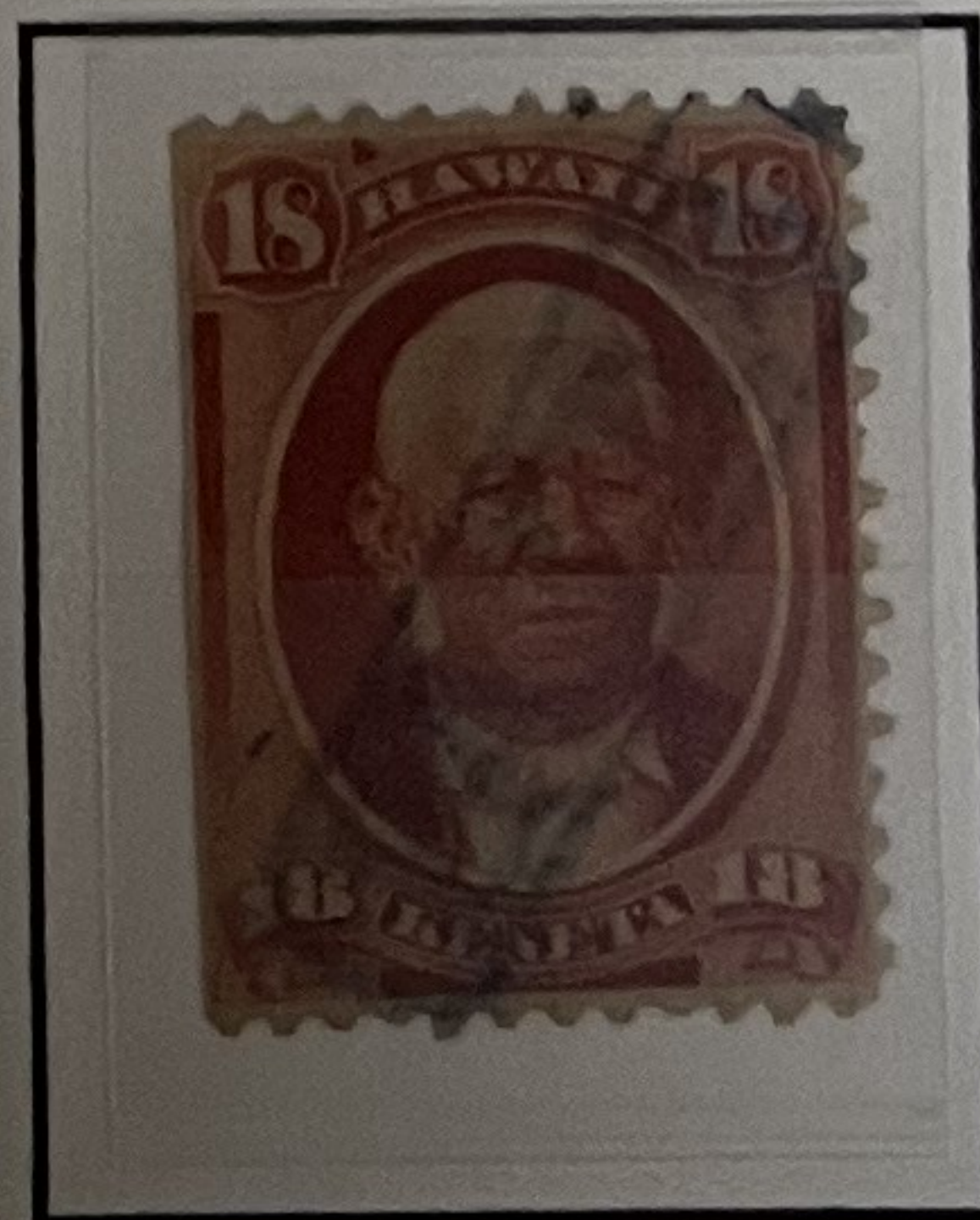
These individual cancels are unreported and likely personal or international in origin.



'FREE'



Star in Circle



'PAID'



orange 'PAID 3'